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**Oxford top guns**

Annie Oakleys dominate the varsity team, p38

**Queensberry inheritance**

Valerie Grove on the family that will always be linked to boxing and Oscar Wilde, p17

**20P**

# THE TIMES

No. 65,193

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 17 1995

Police fall out on advance warning

## Our fans are a disgrace, says Major

By RICHARD FORD, NICHOLAS WATT, BILL FROST AND JOHN GOODBODY

JOHN MAJOR last night condemned the thuggish behaviour of English soccer fans in Dublin as a war of words erupted over who was to blame for failing to prevent the violence at the "friendly" match on Wednesday night.

In a message to John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, Mr Major said: "They were a disgrace and an embarrassment."

His attack on the supporters whose mayhem forced the match to be abandoned came as police and the Football Association of Ireland blamed the authorities in England for the trouble.

Nora Owen, the Irish Justice Minister, demanded to know how the troublemakers got tickets to attend the match. She appointed Thomas Finlay, a former chief justice, to investigate the trouble and the preparation made for a match that had the potential to erupt into disorder.

As police in Dublin accused the English Football Association of failing to monitor troublemakers at the ground, security sources in London said the Irish had refused an offer of help to identify a hardcore hooligan element among thousands of fans.

Nearly 30 English fans appeared before the Dublin District Court yesterday on charges connected with the violence. They faced charges brought under Ireland's public order law, including assault and causing a breach of the peace. Six were remanded in custody, the others released and ordered to leave the country. Police had detained 40 people on Tuesday before the match.

But a Garda statement attempted to absolve the Irish police of any blame for failing to prevent the trouble, by pointing the finger at the English Football Association. It said it had been assured by the FA that tickets would be sold on a selective basis and that two sections of the stand

**INSIDE**

Far-right clubs	2
Philip Howard	18
Leading article	19
Letters	19
David Miller	40
Final backing	44

would be reserved for English fans. A statement said: "The English FA also provided some stewards for the match. The decision to provide a lower-roofed Garda presence in the immediate vicinity of the English fans was taken in consultation with the English FA and the Football Association of Ireland."

The Football Association of Ireland denied that it had received information that National Front supporters were among those travelling to Dublin. Bernard O'Byrne, its head of security, said the information received in advance of the international indicated that the Gardaí was likely to encounter "no more than 20, 30, maybe 40 undesirables."

"Our arrangements were made fully to gear for that," he said. "We had no indication that there would be National Front people travelling here in what appeared to be a quite substantial numbers."

A report sent by Britain's National Football Intelligence Unit to the Gardaí last week was leaked to a Dublin newspaper. It indicated that the Gardaí had received much general information about travel arrangements but no details about known troublemakers.

The Football Intelligence Unit said that the Gardaí had been made aware that far right troublemakers who sympathise with the wider extremes of Ulster loyalism were intent on going to Dublin.

Sources claimed that up to 50 faces detailing information on known troublemakers had been sent to Dublin in the

weeks before the match. The unit had offered to send football intelligence officers to help Irish police identify troublemakers as they arrived but the offer was turned down. "The Irish said they could handle it themselves," a spokeswoman said.

Last night the Football Association in England defended its record in dealing with tickets. It said that it had received 2,700 tickets for the game. Members of the official FA Travel Club, whose names and backgrounds are checked against the list of 5,500 known-troublemakers held by the National Football Intelligence Unit, bought only 1,600. The remaining 1,100 tickets were then returned to Dublin for sale to Irish supporters.

The FA also insisted that it would be pressing ahead with plans to stage the 1996 European football championship in England. It was heartened by a statement by Joao Havelange, president of FIFA, the world governing body, who said: "England does not deserve, because of a localised problem, to have a sporting right withdrawn."

However, Salvatore Cuccini, a spokesman for UEFA, the European governing body, which has the ultimate power on whether the tournament should be staged in England, said: "It is a very sensitive problem. We need time to see what we are going to do because it is a major football event in England that could be in danger."

UEFA has asked for full details about the incident to be sent to its headquarters in Switzerland. The innocent English football fan seriously injured during the match was transferred yesterday to a neurological hospital in Dublin, where his condition was stable last night. The victim is Andy Norris, a bespectacled bank clerk, 31, from Beeston, Nottingham, described by friends as "the mildest bloke you could meet".



Lindley arriving back in Britain, above, and pictured in yesterday's newspapers



## Fan blames Irish police

By ANDREW PIERCE

JERRY LINDLEY, the England fan whose photograph was splashed over the front pages of Britain's national newspapers yesterday, later arrived back in England clutching a blood-stained flag of St George and insisting that the Irish had provoked the riot.

The father of two was pictured snarling, giving a Nazi-style salute, and being

bundled out of Dublin's Lansdowne Road ground by the Gardaí. He said Irish fans had taunted the English spectators with threats to bomb the mainland.

Mr Lindley, 38, a Millwall supporter, said: "I want to clear my name. I'm not a racist. I'm a patriot. The picture in the national press has really upset me."

"I didn't do anything wrong and therefore I wasn't arrested. The Irish claim they

are the victims, but I was beaten black and blue."

Mr Lindley, of Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire, had facial cuts and a black eye and needed seven stitches in a head wound he claimed was inflicted by a police baton. "The police surrounded me," he said. "When the game had stopped, the police trapped us in the ground saying 'You're not getting away with this, you're going to get a bloody good hiding'."

## Clarke is first to feel effect of No 10 order to fall in line

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND NICHOLAS WOOD

THE Prime Minister failed yesterday to give public backing to Kenneth Clarke over the impact of a single currency

move so far to try to end the bitter infighting that has riven the party. While ministers said they did not see his words as a threat, senior Tories will expect him to reprimand or dismiss ministers who step out of line in future. It was received without dissent.

A Cabinet source said: "There was no discussion. The PM spoke for quite a long time and was heard out. It was quite a lecture - a very powerful and authoritative performance."

Mr Major went to the Commons to claim that the Cabinet was "utterly united" over a single currency "and

raged the party to stop, he said."

Mr Major's highly unusual injunction was his toughest move so far to try to end the bitter infighting that has riven the party. While ministers said they did not see his words as a threat, senior Tories will expect him to reprimand or dismiss ministers who step out of line in future. It was received without dissent.

A Cabinet source said: "There was no discussion. The PM spoke for quite a long time and was heard out. It was quite a lecture - a very powerful and authoritative performance."

Mr Major went to the Commons to claim that the Cabinet was "utterly united" over a single currency "and

reinforced that unity this morning." However, he was given an uncomfortable time by Mr Blair who repeatedly asked him to back Mr Clarke's comments that a single currency was not a threat to the nation state. Mr Major's effective "gagging" order on his Cabinet is certain to be exploited by Labour.

Norman Lamont, Mr Clarke's predecessor as Chancellor, is expected to go back on the warpath today with a speech at the Oxford Union directly challenging his claims on the single currency. Downing Street went out of its way to deny any disagreement between Mr Major and Mr Clarke. Officials said that they were in "100 per cent agreement" that all the implications of monetary union would need to be considered before any decision on a single currency was taken.

Mr Major had earlier laid down the law to his warring ministers with a five minute speech to the Cabinet. He pointed out that he had set out the Government's policy in his speeches in Leiden, The Netherlands, last September and to the Conservative Way Forward this month, and in recent interviews. He told them that public comments should follow that policy and they should not speculate about decisions well into the future. It was time for the public disunity that had out-

## Accountancy exam results

The Institute of Chartered Accountants' Final Examination, December 1994 results will be published tomorrow. Copies will be on sale this evening from 10pm at Charing Cross, King's Cross and Victoria stations, Marble Arch and Leicester Square.

Arts	33-35
Births, marriages, deaths	20
Bridge	8-44
Chess	8-44
Court and Social	22
Crossword	18
Diary	31-32
Law	36-37
Leading articles	19
Letters	19
Obituaries	21
Weather	22
TV & Radio	42-43

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## It's only a match, scared boy said

By NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE anxious face of an eight-year-old boy clutching his father's hand was a powerful symbol of the terror caused by Lansdowne Road's violence on Wednesday night.

James Eager, from the village of Delgany, Co Wicklow, south of Dublin, had been taken to the "friendly" as a special treat by his father, Shay. Mr Eager, a former goalkeeper with the Irish team Shamrock Rovers, said yesterday that he has instilled a love of the game in his son and has taken him to football matches regularly since he was two.

James, who wants to follow his father's footsteps as a goalkeeper when he grows up, was back at St Laurence's

National School at Greystones yesterday.

Mr Eager said that his son had gripped his hand as the players were ordered off the pitch and said: "Dad, what are they doing? It's only a football match."

Mr Eager said they were sitting in the lower west stand when the trouble broke out, and he looked for the safest exit. He said: "We could see stuff being hurled down. I felt it was a danger so I grabbed James and we ran down onto the pitch. James was more upset than anything else. I tried to make a game of it. I made out that it was a big treat to walk on the Lansdowne Road pitch."



James on Wednesday night, left, and at home yesterday

## TOMORROW IN THE TIMES



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**THE SEVEN SECTION TIMES IS 30p ON SATURDAY**

## Phone ranger traps cyberspace outlaw

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

IT HAD all the features of the classic Western: a colourful villain who had evaded the law for years, a loner determined to track him down and a cliff-hanging final reel when justice triumphed.

The twist in the plot was that it all took place in cyberspace - the frontierland colonised by computer users. The villain was Kevin Mitnick, 31, the world's most wanted computer hacker, who first gained notoriety by penetrating the US air defence system while still a teenager.

The hero was Tsutomu Shimomura, 30, a Japanese computer security specialist living in California who has a reputation as a brilliant cyber-sleuth.

Mr Mitnick has been in and out of trouble with the law ever since he was placed on probation for stealing computer manuals from a telephone switching centre at the age of 17. A technical genius who appears to seek no financial gain, he has become a legendary outlaw on the computer frontier.

He once gained control of phone switching centres, enabling him to listen in on calls and to reprogramme the numbers of those he disliked.

But his exploits soon escalated beyond teenage pranks

into costly computer crimes. In 1988, he secretly read the electronic mail of computer security officers at MCI Communications, a telephone company, and the Digital Equipment Corporation, a computer maker.

He was convicted in July 1989 and sentenced to a year in a low-security jail. On his release, he was placed on parole requiring him to attend a treatment programme for compulsive disorders. He violated the terms of his parole, and dropped out of sight.

His capture this week suggests, however, that he may finally have overreached himself when he raided Mr Shimomura's home computer. Mr Shimomura, a researcher at the San Diego Supercomputer Centre, immediately decided to hunt the intruder down.

The breakthrough came last weekend when Mr Shimomura determined that Mr Mitnick was operating through a computer modem connected to a cellular telephone in North Carolina.

Mr Shimomura tipped off police and telephone company officials. As he was being handcuffed, Mr Mitnick reportedly turned to Mr Shimomura and said: "Hello, Tsutomu. I respect your skills."

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# Faint-hearted forwards fail to tackle foul play by the Irish defence

AFTER something as atrocious as Wednesday's mayhem in Dublin, even MPs — most of whom would file a question about sick parrots under "Agriculture" — feel obliged to begin with a passing reference to their shock and horror. Yesterday the PM and his opposite number duly did so.

Then they proceeded to the real mayhem.

Tony Blair heads for the weekend after a week which has seen possibly his worst and undoubtedly his best spats at Prime Minister's

Questions. On Tuesday, an over-rehearsed piece of swordsmanship, intended as a three-stage joust, fell apart at the start when the PM simply kicked him in the nuts.

Still smarting as he entered the Chamber yesterday, Blair was greeted by the thinnest cheer he has heard since becoming leader. Minutes later he got his best cheer in months. How had that been achieved?

Blair had offered his own summary of Kenneth Clarke's remarks about a

single currency. Did Major agree — yes or no? Major had replied by pointing to shifts in Blair's own position, and asked where he stood.

Labour chortled. Tories looked grim. When will politicians learn that the spin-doctors are wrong? If you don't want to answer a question, say so! Trying to divert attention with a question of your own fools nobody. It only invites suspicion and ridicule.

Both were heaped on the PM yesterday. Blair came straight back with a quip

about how nice it was to see Major getting some practice at asking him the questions. As Blair's backbenchers celebrated their chief's victory, few missed the embarrassed attempt at a careless grin on Mr Clarke's face. These staged contests — dismal as they are — can be revealing in a brutal kind of way. Other sorts of exchange illuminate

with a subtler light. As Northern Ireland Questions showed. A sea-change in feelings towards the Ulster Unionists is under way.

No MP actually asked the question which hung, almost tangible, in the air. But there are times at Westminster when you can feel a question forming as you may see a cloud no bigger than a man's

hand begin to grow. The question is simple. If everybody but the Unionist MPs can agree on a document, why should 12 Unionists prevent its even being put to the people of the Province?

Perhaps we should call it the East Lothian question, for it was first put to the PM days ago by Labour's John Home Robertson (E Lothian), without answer. Yesterday Peter Bottomley (C, Eltham) trod carefully, asking Patrick Mayhew whether "extreme and fearful Unionism" was not actually damaging the

fight against terrorism? He didn't quite ask the East Lothian question. Sir Patrick didn't quite answer it either. Labour's Roger Stott (Wigan) didn't quite ask it either. Shouldn't the people of Northern Ireland, he asked, "expect and demand" better of their MPs?

Finally, Alan Beith, for the Liberal Democrats, shied just short of the East Lothian question: were Unionist MPs not denying their constituents the chance to express their own views on the document, he asked? Michael

Annam, the minister, avoided answer. For their part the Unionists — with cries of "deceived and betrayed" (Roy Beggs, Antrim E) and "peace process charade" (Ken Maginnis, Fermanagh & S Tyrone) — implied that their divorce from this Government was complete.

They will have drawn little comfort from Dennis Skinner's declaration that the next one would have to sort them out.

Bruce Anderson, page 18

"They gave them a bloody nose, put one over the IRA and deeply embarrassed the Government"

## Far-Right football thugs engineered riot over Ulster

BY ANDREW PIERCE

FAR-RIGHT members of Combat 18, which has its origins in British soccer terraces, had been planning the Dublin riot for almost three months as a protest against the Northern Ireland peace process.

Combat 18, whose members are recruited at football matches, is an offshoot of the British National Party and has long had links with Ulster paramilitaries. The 200-strong group, which is made up of cells attached to soccer clubs such as Chelsea, opposes Downing Street's approach to the IRA. Dublin, the scene of the Easter Rising against the British in 1916, was seen as the perfect showcase for a riot.

Planning was carried out in pubs and members' homes. Most of Combat 18 supporters are believed to have arrived separately in Ireland several days before the match. They descended on Dublin from other arrival points, such as Cork.

Police are trying to trace members of the Cheltenham Volunteer Force who left calling cards at the riot. The cards

bore the flag of St George, the group's initials and the words "England Invasion of Dublin 1995. Ulster is British. No Surrender. God Save the Queen."

Cheltenham Town, a non-league club, is aware of the group's existence. Its members are thought regularly to attend Aston Villa matches in the Premier League. Paul Godfrey, who edits the club programme, said: "They are not Cheltenham Town supporters."

They are a bunch of sad individuals from Cheltenham who occasionally turn up for big games," Deborah Griggs, the Mayor of Cheltenham, wrote to Dublin civic leaders dissociating the town from the group.

Combat 18, according to right-wing supporters, decided to raise the temperature at the match by chanting anti-Irish and anti-IRA slogans. Their banners, depicting crossed axes with superimposed crosses, denoted their

support for violence. A British National Party member said last night: "We all care passionately about Northern Ireland staying in the United Kingdom. We think John Major is selling out. Dublin was always going to be the obvious target for a violent demonstration."

"I can't believe the authorities could not see it coming. The organisers have achieved their aims. The Irish were given a bloody nose, they put one over the IRA, and deeply embarrassed the British Government."

Combat 18, which was formed as a splinter group of the BNP three years ago, had a dry run in Rotterdam in October 1993. It sent 50 members to provoke a riot in the aftermath of England's exit from the World Cup. They succeeded. Leading Members of Combat 18 known to the police were spotted in the crowd at Rotterdam.

Members have been visiting Loyalists and paramilitaries in Belfast since the summer to try to establish links. Last October an unnamed member of Combat 18 told Channel 4's Dispatches programme: "I have been over twice. We would be invited to social clubs for drinks and at the end of the night there would be a show of arms by our loyalist friends. They were paramilitaries." The ceasefire had been declared a month earlier.

Major's reaction, page 18  
Philip Howard, page 18  
Leading article and Letters, page 19



Extreme mainland groups claim links with Northern Ireland Loyalist paramilitaries

## Fan 'was in the wrong place at the wrong time'

BY TIM JONES AND NICHOLAS WATT

A COMPANY director from Hampshire was one of three England fans remanded in custody in Dublin yesterday after the violence at Lansdowne Road on Wednesday night.

Paul Kieser, 26, of Titchfield, Hampshire, was charged with committing a riot, using threatening and abusive language to put people in fear of their lives at the stadium, and causing criminal damage. He was remanded in custody until Monday. He was one of 14 fans appearing in court yesterday, one of whom was jailed for 15 days because he could not pay a £300 fine.

Mr Kieser told Judge Brian Fitzpatrick at Dublin District Court: "I can assure you I am a very responsible person. I run my own company."

Last night Mr Kieser's family and friends denied he had any involvement in football

hooliganism. Charles Kieser, 60, said: "I just don't believe that my son could be involved in anything like this. He is not a yob, not my boy. It seems he was just in the wrong place at the wrong time. Paul would run a hundred miles from that kind of arrogant sneering lout."

He said his son had flown to Dublin from Gatwick on Wednesday morning and had planned today to see two clients he hoped would be able to help him in the fireproofing business he had just started.

"The last thing he would have wished for or wanted is trouble. He is building up his own business and is working hard to establish the future."

Mr Kieser said his son despised extremists and had no association with any right-

wing or Fascist organisations. "He hadn't planned to go to the match originally but as it fitted in with his business plans he rang me up to say he might as well go along."

He added: "I spoke to an officer in Dublin this morning and he said Paul wasn't involved in violence but couldn't say what he had done."

A neighbour, Debbie Adde, 26, who went to school with Paul Kieser, said: "I would never be involved in violence, let alone be a ringleader. He's a normal hard-working bloke who just loves football."

Another neighbour, Nikki Heathorn, 27, said: "I would never have thought he would have got involved in something like this. He's just not that type of bloke."

One fan who admitted hurling missiles from the stand at Lansdowne Road said last night that he would go to no more England football match-



Paul Kieser told the court he was "very responsible"

es. Shaun Philpot, 24, from West Byfleet, Surrey, said he could not explain why he got involved.

"I just lost my head when it

all started and began throwing things along with everyone else. I am so ashamed. Our behaviour was deplorable and I regret my part."

## Police report forecasted trouble during anthems

THIS is the main part of the text of the police intelligence document sent to the Garda by the Football Intelligence Squad and leaked to Irish newspapers yesterday.

"Information has been received from English FA Travel Club that a group of England supporters who are known to the NCIS [National Criminal Intelligence Service] Football Unit, who are from the Sheffield area, will be travelling to Dublin from Manchester airport on flight number FR805 at 1320hrs on 15/2/95, returning 1200hrs 16/2/95 to Manchester airport."

One of these individuals, [name given] was deported with 245 others from Italy during the 1990 World Cup for his involvement in serious disorder in Rimini (he was not charged or convicted for any offence) and also from Holland in October 1993 at the World Cup qualifying match for involvement in disorder in Amsterdam prior to the match

again he was not charged or convicted of any offence). This group will be seated in Row 13, seats 22 to 34.

The main Spurs target hooligan group will be flying from Stansted Airport on Tuesday on flight number FR211, departing 1545hrs arriving Dublin 1630hrs. The Sunderland main hooligan targets (the Seaburn Casuals) will be travelling in numbers on the

0330hrs ferry from Holyhead to Dublin on 15/2/95. There is information this group will travel with groups from Carlisle and Middlesbrough.

The Everton and Liverpool main target hooligans, who are mainly thieves, and who will use forged or stolen cheque and bank cards and will also possibly be in possession of counterfeit currency, will be travelling from Holyhead to Dublin (details later).

Oxford main target hooligans will be travelling in numbers (details to follow).

Leeds main target hooligans will be flying from Manchester Airport on 14/2/95 on flight FR503, departing at 1000hrs.

Interest has been expressed by a large number of northern based supporters from Wigan, Bolton and Oldham. Oldham supporters recently caused serious problems at Leeds in the FA Cup and problems are anticipated if this Leeds-Oldham group travel together. This situation will be monitored by Greater Manchester Police Football Intelligence Officers.

Leicester City main target hooligans will be flying from East Midlands airport on 13/2/95. Manchester United main target including a number of the Cockney Reds will be travelling to Ireland. Information has been received that Hull City main target hooligans will be travelling to Ireland.

Intelligence suggests that the playing of the English national anthem prior to the match will be the signal for some sort of activity/disorder within the stadium. This will be the first occasion for some time that both the Irish and English national anthems have been played together prior to a major sporting event in Dublin. Further information will be forwarded.

All airports mentioned above will be covered by Football Intelligence Officers who will work with Special Branch and forward intelligence to the NCIS Football Unit. This will be forwarded to the Garda Síochána in Dublin on a regular basis.

An operation involving officers from a number of forces including North Wales Police, British Transport Police and the NCIS Football Unit, has been set up at Holyhead to monitor the movement of football supporters at the port between 14/2/95 and 16/2/95."



Brian Drew, head of the football intelligence unit, offered specially trained officers to the police in Dublin, but the offer was rejected

## Gardai rejected British offer to identify thugs

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL, NICHOLAS WATT AND RICHARD FORD

EVEN before the match was announced, football authorities were alarmed that a small group of far-right extremists, supportive of the wider elements in Ulster loyalism, had infiltrated the football terraces.

As football intelligence officers listened at some matches to the chants of "No Surrender to the IRA", they realised that the fixture at Lansdowne Road was seen by troublemakers as a grudge match at which they planned to stir up trouble and insult the Irish. The information they gathered was fed into the national football intelligence unit at Vauxhall, in south London, which was responsible for collating intelligence and passing it to the police in Dublin.

The unit was set up in 1990 as an anti-hooligan squad to eliminate violence from the national game and now operates as a specialist group within the National Criminal Intelligence Service. Its six officers and three

civilian support staff maintain a database of intelligence on individuals known or suspected of football violence and offers this information to foreign forces when the English team and big clubs travel abroad.

In early January, Malcolm George, Assistant Chief Constable of Greater Manchester, in charge of the pre-match security operations in England, contacted the Irish police headquarters in Dublin to begin detailed planning

for the fixture. During the weeks building up to the match, there were regular telephone conversations between members of the football intelligence unit and police in Dublin. The unit regularly supplied the Irish with security "packages".

Between 40 and 50 potential troublemakers — a number of them connected with the so-called Combat 18 splinter group of the British National Party — were identified by intelligence officers.

In the week before the match there was daily telephone or fax contact including a detailed "intelligence update" providing information on the flights and ferries on which groups such as the Spurs hooligans and Sunderland's "Seaburn Casuals" would travel, plus warnings that trouble was planned as soon as the British national anthem started.

Det Chief Insp Bryan Drew, head of the football intelligence unit, said: "In these circumstances we are reliant on the Irish police acting on the intelligence we give them. There were a number who were members of the BNP or sympathisers with them and that information was passed to the Irish police."

Specially trained "spotter" officers who regularly accompany football fans to identify troublemakers were offered to the Irish, but the Irish in Dublin turned them down, telling British police they could handle the situation themselves. The suspicion is that the authorities were unwilling to take the politically sensitive decision of allow-

ing British police to work on the streets of Dublin.

A spokesman for the unit said: "We made no recommendations. We simply offered current intelligence. We were aware some of those travelling have right-wing sympathies. It was up to the match commander to decide how they were to police the match."

Despite rejecting British help, the police mounted their biggest football security operation with 600 officers in Dublin city centre, at the airport and ferry terminals.

In the hours before the match the omens were not good. Two people were arrested after a stabbing outside a nightclub and between 20 and 30 hooligans roamed Dublin city centre, clashing with rival gangs.

Within five minutes of the teams emerging on to the pitch, the police's worst fears were fulfilled. English fans raised their arms in Nazi-style salutes, before howling abuse greeted both national anthems — the first time the British one had been played at a soccer match in Dublin for 31 years.

Day Five... 'An unforgiving world in which a moment's distraction could prove fatal' The Times Literary Supplement

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## Zoo worker whose neck was broken wanted to leave his job and start a family

## Tiger that killed keeper 'may have had faulty genes'

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

A TIGER that killed its keeper was the descendant of one that killed two men at the same zoo, an inquest was told yesterday. John Aspinall, the millionaire owner of Howlets wild animal park near Canterbury, said the death of Trevor Smith, 31, could be the result of "bad blood".

Mr Smith, of Goodneston, Kent, died instantly when he was bitten by Balkash, one of about only 120 Siberian tigers in the world, while cleaning the animal's enclosure in November 1994.

Mr Smith's widow Deborah, 22, is considering suing the wildlife park, which tries to bridge the gap between man and other mammals. Unlike other zoos, keepers at Howlets are allowed, if they volunteer, to enter the enclosures to play with the big cats.

In 1980, two keepers were killed within a month by Zaya, Balkash's great grandmother. The head keeper died when he went alone into the cage where the tigress had been nursing its cub, and another keeper was killed when Zaya leapt over a fence and savaged him as he cleaned a cage containing the cub.

Mr Aspinall, who shot Zaya 15 years ago, told yesterday's inquest in Canterbury: "There may be a faulty gene, an abnormal gene which has crisscrossed on to him so that he had a mean streak in his genotype which surfaces. I'm not going to let anybody go back in with any descendant of Zaya."

He said humans had learnt that inherited characteristics could come out eight generations later.

Mr Smith said his husband had wanted to leave his dangerous job so they could start a family and was considering returning to his previous work as a postman.

Mr Smith volunteered to



Aspinall: wants to lift ban on entering cages



Marc tigers may have been upset at change

clean the enclosure containing Balkash, a male tiger aged 2½ and Zamsan, a tigress, on a Sunday afternoon because his boss Nick Marx, the head carnivore keeper, had received a call from a farmer to put down a dying horse which could be fed to exhibit at the park. Mr Marx told the inquest it was possible the tigers could have been upset by the change in routine when Mr Smith replaced him.

Balkash and Zamsan had not eaten for three days and

were due to be fed later that day. Roger Brown, a visitor to the park, told the inquest that the two tigers appeared friendly when Mr Smith entered their enclosure. They nuzzled the keeper and he tickled their ears. "When Trevor Smith was fondling the tigers I thought I could hear them purr," Mr Brown said.

The tigers then appeared to become more animated, moving faster and getting more excited. Balkash, who weighs between 400lb and 500lb, suddenly drew up on its rear legs and put its front paws on Mr Smith's shoulders, facing the keeper. Mr Smith fell and Balkash ran across the enclosure, holding the keeper's dead body in its mouth.

Dr Ian Hesley, a pathologist, said Mr Smith died instantly from a fractured skull and fractured neckbone. Mr Brown's wife Margaret said: "They were very switched on to his [the keeper's] presence. They went straight over to him. The animals did seem very pushy at a certain point. I seem to remember Trevor Smith starting to realise that they were serious. This wasn't just play."

She recognised the mood from her own experience with domestic pets: "If you are about to feed cats and you put their food above their head and they are milling around your leg, that's sort of tension — but with tigers it's more so. They were really interested in Trevor."

Mr Marx, at his home in the grounds, heard Mr Smith shouting at Balkash and grabbed a garden spade to run down and help. He had to hit Balkash so hard to make it drop Mr Smith's body that the tool snapped.

Since Mr Smith's death, keepers have been forbidden by Mr Aspinall from entering the enclosures, but he hopes to lift this prohibition after the



Balkash, the descendant of a tigress that killed two keepers within a month, attacked Trevor Smith last year

inquest. "I can't promise that there won't be another accident — how can I?" he told the inquest. "But we will try to reduce the odds. We will keep the ethos and spirit of the place at the same time."

"We don't want to abandon that. We don't want another boring zoo where the keepers just become jailers and functionaries rather than companions."

Other zoos, such as London, already ban their staff from joining dangerous animals in their cages, but Howlets, which breeds endangered species, has pursued its philosophy of bridging the gap between species for 37 years.

Mr Aspinall dismissed the idea that Balkash bit Mr Smith because it was hungry.

"I have been to tigers' enclosures, animals that haven't been fed for eight days," he said. "They are rather nimble and active but they don't change. They're friends, other tigers that they know and humans that they know are not on the menu."

Mr Aspinall said: "We try to reduce the gap between us and the higher mammals. There has been an enormous gap in the past, in the history of the world, there has been a vast gap between them and us."

"We live in a dangerous world. Everyone gambles with their lives all the time. Going in with tigers is not as risky as it seems. If you go to a football match you gamble."

He himself had been alone with tigers many times over

the years, although now he was getting older and weaker he preferred to have his head kept with him.

Mr Aspinall's daughter-in-law Louise needed stitches in her head two years ago after being attacked by Zamsan.

Mr Marx was asked by the coroner whether Balkash had become less reliable "having tasted human blood". Mr Marx replied that the tiger had not changed since Mr Smith's death. "He comes up and talks to me at the fence," Mr Marx said. He added that he had had no qualms about allowing Mr Smith to take his place cleaning the tiger's enclosure. "Obviously a stranger couldn't go in and do my job with the tigers," he said. "Perhaps the tiger would be

have in a friendly fashion, perhaps he would kill him. Trevor wasn't a stranger. He was proud to go in with the tigers."

Mr Smith, who had been employed at Howlets since 1988, had known Balkash and Zamsan since they were cubs. "The animals liked him," he said. He believed the tigers were disadvantaged by being denied close human contact since Mr Smith's death. "Their life just can't be as full," he said.

The jury returned a verdict of accidental death on Mr Smith after ten minutes' deliberation. The coroner said: "It is tragic that someone who so obviously enjoyed his job should have met his death by a tragic accident."

## Film star fan shot dead on trip to see idol

By RICHARD DUCE

A FAN of Arnold Schwarzenegger who cashed a social security cheque to fly to America to see his screen idol was shot dead while trying to burgle a house in Los Angeles.

The householder fired at Reginald John six times with a handgun, then chased him into the street before killing him with a final shot to the head, an inquest in Windsor was told yesterday.

Mr John's killer, Samuel Hatcher, escaped prosecution because he was defending his property. Robert Wilson, his property, Robert Wilson, the East Berkshire corner, recorded a verdict of unjustifiable homicide.

Mr Wilson said: "Whether it is lawful to shoot someone breaking into your house is one thing. Whether it is lawful to follow them and shoot them full of bullets is another. Certainly, in this country, to follow someone down the street and shoot them is not lawful at all."

The inquest was told that Mr John, 30, who was receiving medication for schizophrenia, had been found a council flat in Slough and had been sent £500 to buy himself a cooker. In a statement, WPC Bettina Drake said Mr John had used the money to buy an airline ticket to Los Angeles.

"He wanted to go and meet his idol Arnold Schwarzenegger. He had Mr Schwarzenegger's fan club address in his diary," she said.

On March 2 last year Mr Hatcher, who is married with two children, found Mr John and an accomplice inside his house on a suburban street in Los Angeles.

Mr Wilson read out a report from the Los Angeles Police Department in which Mr Hatcher claimed he "could see as clear as day" that Mr John had what appeared to be a handgun and saw him pull the trigger but the gun did not go off. He had fired at Mr John repeatedly with his .44 Smith and Wesson semi-automatic.

## Rape case PC tells of nights with colleague

By RICHARD DUCE

A POLICE officer accused of raping a colleague told the Old Bailey yesterday of illicit kissing and cuddling sessions with her during the two nights before the alleged attack.

Michael Seears, 25, said that both he and the WPC were attracted to each other but their relationship had stopped short of intercourse because she was going out with his best friend. All three were police officers in Surrey. The prosecution alleges that Mr Seears forced himself on the woman after a new year's party while her boyfriend was on duty.

However, PC Seears, now suspended from duty after the rape allegation, which he denies, said the claim was "complete fabrication".

He said that he and the woman, also 25, had kissed and cuddled on the two nights but each time had decided it should go no further. PC Seears claimed that the woman went with him to his room after he had left the "lofts and tarts" party and that they kissed on his bed.

He admitted that he had given the woman love bites but denied being forceful enough to leave bruises on her breast and arms, which were noticed the next day by her boyfriend. He denied there had been full intercourse.

The court was told that the woman did not make the rape accusation against the officer until three months after the alleged attack.

The case continues.

## Life for employee who murdered over job rota

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A KILLER who shot his former employer in front of his wife and four-year-old son after a row about work rotas was jailed for life yesterday.

Colin Middleton, 41, of Bartley Green, Birmingham, was convicted by a jury at Birmingham Crown Court of murdering Terry Maidens, 27, broke down in tears and there were shouts and cheers in the public gallery.

Middleton, who denied murder, used a sawn-off double-barrelled shotgun to shoot Mr Maidens, a father of three, at close range as he watched television at home with his family. He died on the living room floor as his son hid behind a chair.

Timothy Raggatt, QC, for the prosecution, said it was a case of cold-blooded murder. "It was a completely ruthless killing, a wholly premeditated killing and carefully planned."

The jury heard that Mr Maidens was killed after his wife opened the door to a man with "smiling, laughing eyes" whom she thought was delivering pizza. He pushed past Mr Maidens, a production manager, was watching Coronation Street with his four-year-old son on his lap, and fired twice at point-blank range. He then fled on a motorcycle.

The court was told that Middleton had resented changes to his work rota at Linpac Mouldings, a tool manufacturers in Witton, Birmingham, and had vowed revenge after walking out of his job. He allegedly told a



Katherine Maidens: tears as killer was sentenced



Terry Maidens: shot as he watched television

colleague: "I have got a gun and I am not frightened of using it."

Middleton maintained that he had taken the gun to shoot the hinges off the front door of Mr Maidens's home in Nuneaton and had intended merely to punch him. He said he

had tripped and his shotgun went off accidentally.

Middleton was angry, the court was told, after being reprimanded for allegedly kicking a door at the factory where they worked. He was moved from the night-shift to day work after claims that he intimidated other staff and refused to carry out instructions from senior personnel.

When he was challenged about the door-kicking incident, three months before the killing, he stormed out of the factory and never returned.

Middleton, who had been issued with a firearms certificate by West Midlands Police, was said to be a loner who had a keen interest in guns. After the shooting he fled to Scotland where he was tracked down and arrested. Police found two sawn-off shotguns in his possession.

David Crigman, QC, for the defence, said Middleton had realised "the enormity of the misery" he had caused. However, Mr Justice Latham, passing sentence, said: "The evidence I have heard makes it plain to me that there will be a need for considerable care to be taken in assessing you over the next few years to establish the extent for which you need help."

In a statement read outside the court, Mrs Maidens, supported by her parents and close to tears, said: "Nobody is able to bring back my husband or my children's father. But at least justice as far as our judicial system allows has been done. There are a number of people who, in addition to me, have had to live with the aftermath of this cold-blooded murder."

## Errant knight plagued female drivers

A DRIVER so enjoyed playing the knight in shining armour to female motorists that he provided the roads looking for women to "help", a court heard yesterday.

Tom Hogarth, 38, got such a thrill from helping one motorist in difficulty that he went on to pull over seven other women on lonely country roads. After pointing out minor or non-existent faults with their cars he would drive away. Hogarth, of Hexham, Northumberland, admitted two charges of causing harassment, alarm or

distress and asked for five other offences to be taken into consideration.

The unemployed roofer, who lives with his girlfriend, stopped his first victim on the A1 near Alnwick, Northumberland. She pulled into a layby after he flashed his headlights. He told her that her exhaust was on fire and then sped off. Frances Lennon, for the prosecution, told Alnwick magistrates: "This has left her with a feeling of nervousness about travelling alone."

Hogarth tried to flag down

the next woman by waving his mobile phone at her on the A1 at Stannington, Northumberland. He pursued her for ten miles and walked up to her car when she stopped at traffic lights in Newcastle upon Tyne. She screamed for help but he tried to explain he meant no harm, the court was told.

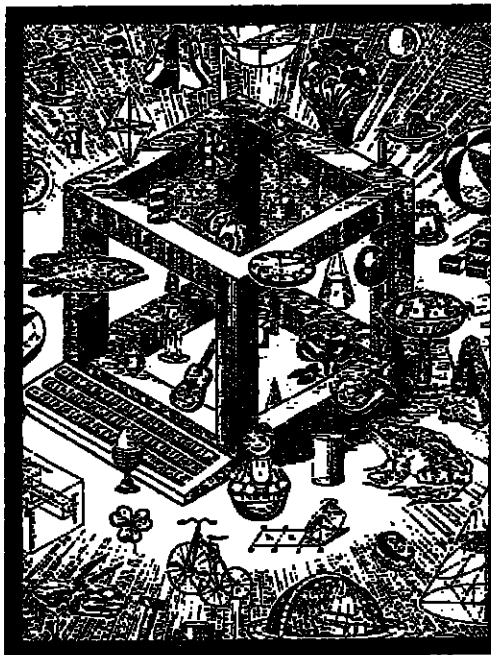
Jonathan Dunkley, for the defence, said Hogarth's peculiar behaviour began last summer after he helped a woman driver whose rear wheel was loose. "On that occasion he enjoyed being a

Good Samaritan and helping a lady in distress. Unfortunately he wanted to repeat the same experience because he got such a buzz out of helping her that way. What he was doing was manufacturing a situation where he could be seen as a knight in shining armour."

"The last thing on his mind was to upset or unsettle anybody. It is a really sad and pathetic way for an intelligent 38-year-old man to behave."

Sentencing was adjourned for the preparation of social and psychiatric reports.

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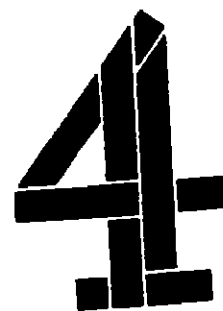


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MICHAEL GRADE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

15 February 1995

The Rt Hon Stephen Dorrell MP  
Secretary of State for National Heritage  
Department of National Heritage  
2-4 Cockspur Street  
London SW1Y 5DH



*Dear Secretary of State,*

It has been a week of Good News and Bad News for British viewers and cinema goers.

The Good News is that films backed by Channel 4 scooped 12 Oscar Nominations, the same number as the combined Hollywood might of 20th Century Fox, Warner Bros and Universal Studios could manage.

I know that you will want to join us in congratulating all the talent involved in these successful British ventures.

The Bad News this week is that Channel 4 was forced to pay a £57 million subsidy to the shareholders of ITV (Oscar Nominations: Nil).

When is the Government going to take action and give the public the extra British films and television programmes they are paying for?

*Yours,*

MICHAEL GRADE

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# Teacher sacked for explicit sex lesson wins £16,000 award

By BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A BIOLOGY teacher sacked by a Jewish comprehensive school after parents complained that his sex education lessons were too explicit was unfairly dismissed, an industrial tribunal ruled yesterday.

Vincent Pedley, who fought a 20-month legal battle to clear his name, said after the hearing that teachers risked being dragged through the courts for "every sentence, half sentence and word" they uttered in sex education classes.

Mr Pedley, 50, was awarded the maximum £16,000 compensation after the tribunal ruled by a two-to-one majority that governors at King David High School, Manchester, were wrong to sack him after complaints from parents of pupils aged 15 and 16.

The case further highlights the difficulties facing teachers over the content of sex education lessons. In August, an inquiry vindicated a school nurse who was denounced by ministers after parents complained that she had taught children as young as ten about oral sex. It commended the "high motives" of Susan Brady, 44, in giving honest replies to children at Highfield Primary School in Leeds.

Mr Pedley said after the award was announced: "The lesson here is: teacher beware, it could happen to you. Every

teacher in the country should make sure they have a cast-iron agreement with the chairman of the governors and that they understand what you are doing about sex education."

Mr Pedley, of Urmston, Greater Manchester, was dismissed from his £30,000-a-year post in May 1993. It was claimed he had breached the school's sex education guidelines by encouraging pupils to talk about masturbation and oral sex, using slang terms for sexual acts.

He maintained at the tribunal that his remarks were taken out of context and he was misquoted by people determined to sack him. His repeated requests for guidance on what he should be teaching

were ignored by the school. The tribunal found that Mr Pedley did not contribute to his dismissal and ruled that the governors' failure to investigate fully the claims made by girl pupils was "unsatisfactory and unreasonable".

After the tribunal, the teacher said he would give the same frank answers to questions from pupils again: "I know more about what the children understand than the governors do. You can't teach sex education without talking about sex. But they should have told me what they wanted. I would like to go back to teaching but it is not going to be easy to find a job. I am pleased I have got the maximum award, which shows I was totally justified."

Peter Bentley, regional officer of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said: "The case clearly spells out lessons for teachers - that is, don't rely on your employers to ensure that what you are teaching is in accordance with their wishes."

"Vincent made special efforts to check the content of his sex education lessons was in accordance with the Jewish ethos but that wasn't enough. Although he has won the tribunal he is left without a job."



Pedley: repeatedly asked for guidance



Kevin: personal memory

## Victims of pit blast honoured by Keegan

KEVIN KEEGAN, the football manager and former England captain, unveiled a memorial yesterday to 108 miners who died in a pit disaster at West Stanley Burns Colliery, Co Durham, in 1909.

Keegan's grandfather Frank, a mine inspector, was among those who helped to rescue injured colleagues after an explosion collapsed the main shaft. The Newcastle United manager said: "It has taken the best part of 85 years for someone to put something there as a memorial. No one has ever forgotten what happened. It should be remembered for the sake of those who didn't come back."

Hundreds gathered at the pithead after the blast on February 16, to find out the fate of men trapped two miles underground. There were only 36 survivors.

## Charity steps in to save 'desperate' schools

By BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A CHARITY intervened yesterday to safeguard teachers' jobs at state schools in a village as protesters across the country trained their fire on ministers over threatened education cuts.

Benefactors tried to ease the financial squeeze on three state schools at Sawston, Cambridgeshire, by donating £70,000 to help children with special educational needs. Huntingdon's Charity, a trust founded in the 16th century to help the village, made the gift with proceeds of land sold for housing development.

Sal Brinton, education spokesman for Liberal Democrats in Cambridgeshire, said: "I hope this shames the Government into doing something. It is clear education in Britain has now been reduced to the level of a Third World country relying on handouts."

Meanwhile, governors and campaigners in Derbyshire joined the growing revolt against the Government's refusal to help to fund this year's pay award for teachers. Conservative councillors voted with their political rivals to make a special appeal to Gillian Shepherd, the Education Secretary, amid widespread anger at a proposed £23.5 million cut in the county's education budget that threatens 400 teaching posts.

Dr Dick Jones, chairman of Huntingdon's Charity, said each school in Sawston would receive £7,700 a year for the next three years. "It is not something we would want to continue for ever but with more cutbacks this year things are just getting worse and worse for our local schools."

He said: "They are in a desperate situation. Reading standards in particular are just going down and down. It's an area of real need which will benefit local people."

Lin Whyte, head of Icknield Primary School, said: "We are delighted and very grateful to the charity. Money is extremely tight and we have had real budget problems." John Paxton Junior School and John Falkner Infant School also welcomed the gift.

## BR charges travellers the wrong type of fare

By JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of passengers have been charged the wrong fare after a mix-up over the introduction of new ticket prices.

British Rail has apologised and offered a refund to any who can prove that they were overcharged. Passengers who paid less than the correct fare will have their tickets honoured.

The new BR fares came into effect on February 5 but prices for at least 140 journeys, mainly to and from stations in East Anglia, were

printed incorrectly in the new tariff manual.

One of the stations worst affected is Huntingdon, whose MP is John Major, a former patron of the Huntingdon rail users' association. The standard return fare from Huntingdon to London Underground's Zone One area is listed as £28.60 but should be £31.50. Commuters who bought season tickets after February 5 and before today will be the biggest beneficiaries of the confusion, saving £380.

## Police chief attacks 'bankrupt' government policy on crime

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A SENIOR police officer condemned the Government's crime policies yesterday, saying £10 billion spent each year brought to book offenders for only one crime in five.

Chief Superintendent Caroline Nicholl, head of police in Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, said there was too much emphasis on punishment and not enough on prevention. For four million out of the five million crimes reported each year, no offender was brought to justice, she said.

"It is not surprising many victims have lost faith in the criminal justice system. The police understand that the public feel crime is out of control," she said. "If the criminal justice system were a business, it would have gone bankrupt years ago."

Ms Nicholl was speaking in advance of a Channel 4 documentary, *High Interest - The Million Pound Burglars*, to be shown on Sunday. She teamed up with Channel 4 to examine the cost of crime, not

only to police but the community as a whole. The programme shows how different approaches reduce crime and save money.

Focusing on burglaries and car crime in the Milton Keynes area, the programme shows how inexpensive crime prevention methods radically reduce the level of offences. On a housing estate that saw a 15 per cent fall in burglaries, the men were performing for a 600-strong Boxing Day

## Acrobat made fatal error of judgment

AN ACROBAT fell to his death during a circus performance after an error of judgment, an inquest was told yesterday. Neville Campbell, 20, died after breaking his wrists on the "wheel of death", blacking out and falling head first 15ft to the ground at Blackpool Tower Circus.

His circus partner, Bryan Donaldson, from New Zealand, told the inquest at Blackpool: "The accident occurred purely as a result of an error of judgment by Neville, despite his vast experience." The men were performing for a 600-strong Boxing Day

audience. Both were doing tricks in steel cylinders revolving around an axle. "Neville lost his footing. It is imperative that the acrobat maintains his position in the centre of the wheel but he was slightly too far forward," Mr Donaldson said. "Trying to save himself he broke his wrists."

Dr Karen Carr, of Cheltenham, who had been watching the show, told the inquest: "My impression was that he was either unconscious when he fell or in the process of fainting." An accident verdict was returned on Mr Campbell, of Stoke-on-Trent.

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## Solicitors must pay over will that was too late

By FRANCES GIBB  
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

SOLICITORS who took so long to prepare a will that the client died before it was ready must compensate the daughters who would have received bequests, the House of Lords ruled yesterday.

In a test case, the law lords upheld a Court of Appeal decision in favour of two sisters who claimed they each lost £9,000 in bequests because of the solicitor's negligence. Carol White and Pauline Heah of Birmingham had sued Philip Baker King & Co and one of its legal executives, John Jones, for damages.

The sisters fell out with their father, Arthur Barratt, 78, early in 1986. In March that year he made a will cutting them both out of his estate. By June they were reconciled and the next month he instructed his solicitors to draw up a new will to give his daughters £9,000 each.

By the time Mr Barratt died three months later, Mr Jones had missed three appointments to see him and the new will was no more than the subject of an internal memo.

Yesterday the law lords agreed by three to two with the appeal court that as intended beneficiaries the sisters were each entitled to recover £9,000 damages with interest.

Lord Goff of Chieveley said there would be injustice if the sisters were denied a remedy against the negligent lawyers. Lord Browne-Wilkinson and Lord Nolan agreed.

Dismissing the solicitors' appeal, Lord Browne-Wilkinson said: "It would be unacceptable if, because of some technical rules of law, the wishes and expectations of testators and beneficiaries generally could be defeated by the negligent actions of solicitors without there being any redress."

By accepting instructions to draw up a will, a solicitor came into a special relationship with those intended to benefit under it. As a consequence the law imposed a duty on the solicitor "to act with due expedition and care" on their behalf, he said.

The ruling will affect similar cases in the pipeline. But the Law Society yesterday said the impact would not be huge. Karen Aldred, head of property and commercial services, said: "We are pleased to have the law clarified. Solicitors are already urged in guidelines to deal with wills in a 'timely' manner. There are a number of similar cases which have arisen but we are not anticipating a large number."

Law Report, pages 36, 37



The romance by Pauline Harris, left, which has a plot similar to David Lodge's novel *Nice Work*, both of which were influenced by Elizabeth Gaskell's *North and South*

## Mills & Boon author wins libel damages

By DALYA ALBERGE  
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

AN AUTHOR of Mills & Boon romances has been awarded "substantial" libel damages over claims by David Lodge, the best-selling novelist, that she plagiarised one of his books.

The High Court was told that Pauline Harris had suffered "considerable distress and consequent depression" after the claims by David Lodge, honorary Professor of Modern English Literature at Birmingham University, were published in *The Independent* and the *Independent on Sunday* three years ago. In an article on plagiarism, he drew links between her 1991 novel *The Iron Master*, and his book *Nice Work*, published in 1988.

Professor Lodge's novel tells the story of a lecturer who falls for the

head of an iron foundry. Mrs Harris's is about a teacher who falls for the manager of an iron foundry. Both authors agreed that the plots were similar; however, Mrs Harris insisted that she had not read any of Professor Lodge's books. Both claimed to have been influenced by Elizabeth Gaskell's *North and South*.

Mrs Harris, 56, who wrote 23 books under the pseudonyms Rachel Ford and Rebecca King, claimed that she was so traumatised by the accusation that she suffered writer's block. She sued, even though Professor Lodge had published a statement saying that she was "completely innocent of plagiarism and that the similarities between the two books were entirely coincidental".

Professor Lodge yesterday issued a statement saying: "There is nothing I wish to add to the open letter, entitled

a correction, which was published at Mrs Harris's request in the *Independent on Sunday* on November 15, 1992, in lieu of a formal apology and retraction shortly after Newspaper Publishing plc and I admitted liability in this case. I am glad that the prolonged dispute over damages has at last been settled. I trust that, relieved of the stress of litigation, Mrs Harris will be able to resume her literary career and that both of us can now put this unhappy episode behind us."

However, John Blackwell, literary director of Secker and Warburg, Professor Lodge's publishers, said he was surprised that the matter had gone this far. "It was a perfectly amiable article that David wrote. There was nothing malicious in it. It was inviting a response."

Mrs Harris, a retired schoolteacher who lives in Hagley, Hereford and

Worcester, said: "It's marvellous. I am very satisfied. It has been three terrible years. I was sacked by Mills & Boon who would not accept my innocence and treated me very badly. This allegation took my living away overnight. I haven't written another word since. I had never even read this other book and it is good to have my name finally cleared. Perhaps now I can get back to writing."

A spokeswoman for Mills & Boon, who refused to comment on yesterday's outcome, said: "We reached a settlement with her in 1993." One source suggested that the compensation awarded was dependent on the outcome of yesterday's hearing.

This is the latest chapter in a long-running saga of plagiarism accusations. Last month P.D. James was accused of basing her work *Original Sin* on *End of Chapter*, written nearly 40 years ago by Cecil Day

Lewis, the former Poet Laureate, under the pseudonym Nicholas Blake. James confirmed that she had read the book about 25 years before, but denied that it had inspired her. "It was certainly not in my mind and as far as I know it was not in my subconscious mind," she said, however, acknowledge some "extraordinary coincidences".

Both *Original Sin* and *End of Chapter* are set in publishing houses near the Thames. Both open with a character being early for an appointment and both feature a best-selling author who has gone to seed.

In 1991, the science-fiction author Brian Aldiss referred to "a curious coincidence" that the plot of his 1964 novel *Greybeard*, about a world where the human race has become infertile, was similar to James's *Children of Men*. She insisted that she had never read that book.

## Man gets £115,000 over KGB pimp story

By A STAFF REPORTER

A BUSINESSMAN based in Moscow who was branded a pimp and a blackmailer working "cap in hand with the KGB" by the *Sunday Mirror* was yesterday awarded £115,000 in libel damages.

The newspaper claimed in 1989 that Barry Jones, 53, had provided prostitutes for British businessmen as part of a KGB blackmail trap.

Jonathan Crystal, for Mr Jones, told the High Court in London that the allegations had wrecked his career as an international trade consultant and reduced him to a social pariah.

Mr Jones, now living in St Just, Cornwall, had claimed libel damages from Mirror Group Newspapers, the former *Sunday Mirror* Editor Eve Pollard and the journalist Steve Bailey.

The newspaper insisted the pinging claims were true and produced tapes on which Mr Jones was heard to say he had slept with more than 500 women while in Moscow.

Mr Justice Morland described Mr Jones as a persistent womaniser, a heavy drinker and teller of obscene stories. But the jury found he had been libelled. The defendants are to appeal.

The family of the man who won nearly £18 million in the National Lottery has complained to the Press Complaints Commission about coverage in the *News of the World*.

## Select few share most quango posts

By NIGEL WILLIAMSON, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

MORE than half of people appointed to quangos hold at least one other similar post while 10 per cent hold four or more, according to a study to be published in May.

The research, which will be presented to the Nolan committee on standards in public life, shows that those appointed are overwhelmingly white males from the business community. A survey of 1,500 members of quangos found that three quarters of those appointed were male and 60 to 70 per cent were from the commercial sector. Over 98 per cent were white.

A draft of the report, produced by the Institute of Local Government Studies at Birmingham University, will be presented today to the Rowntree Trust, which funded the research. The researchers did not ask about the political affiliation of those appointed but the report will paint a picture of secrecy with the

most basic information not always freely available. There is no register of the 40,000 or more appointments, making it impossible to discover who has the most posts.

Yesterday, addressing the Nolan committee, Stanley Kalms, chairman of Dixons, denied there was a link between his company's donations to the Conservative Party and the appointment of senior Dixons executives to quangos. Lord Nolan said Dixons featured in a list of companies said to have more people on quangos than similar companies that did not make donations.

Mr Kalms said Dixons gave £25,000 a year to the party and he also made a personal donation. While it was true that he and his wife had been appointed to quangos, as had another senior executive and his wife, there was no connection with financial contributions.

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# White Horse may be 1,000 years older than thought

BY JOHN YOUNG AND NORMAN HAMMOND

BRITAIN'S oldest hill figure, the White Horse at Uffington, on the Oxfordshire Downs, is 1,000 years older than previously believed, it was claimed yesterday.

The suggestion that the 300 ft chalk carving dated back 3,000 years was made by members of the Oxford Archaeological Unit. They had used a new technique, known as optical stimulated luminescence dating, which gives the ap-

proximate date of the last exposure to sunlight of buried soils. Samples taken from the horse indicate that it was carved in the late Bronze Age.

The Uffington horse, Britain's only authentically ancient horse figure, could not be dated by conventional archaeological techniques because there were no fragments of pottery or other artefacts in the soil. Its attribution to the last few centuries BC has rarely been questioned because of the close match between the style of the hill-side carving and designs on coins and other metal work of the La Tène period. Some of Britain's earliest coins, issued in the last centuries before the Roman conquest, bore the same image of an equid.

Yesterday's announcement came after five years of excavations by the National Trust



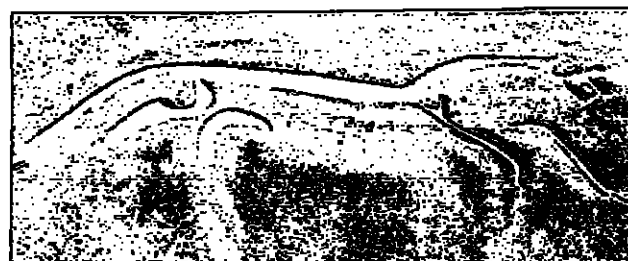
The Uffington horse, on the Oxfordshire Downs, was thought to date from the Iron Age because the design was repeated on coins of the period

and English Heritage, which took control of the site in 1979. David Miles, the archaeological unit's director, said yesterday that the body of the horse was not simply scooped into the chalk as had been thought. Instead, a trench had been cut and filled with chalk quarried from the hill above. The horse had grown marginally thinner

over the centuries. "It has survived because it was regularly cleaned and repaired," he said.

The redating of the White Horse, if it proves to be correct, will deprive the Iron Age of one of its best-known images. The statistical error built into the optical dating method does, however, allow

room for doubt. Professor Barry Cunliffe, a specialist in the Iron Age at Oxford University, said: "Taking the statistical error into account, the White Horse could still have been carved around 500-400 BC. That would put it a century or two earlier than the hitherto accepted date, but it doesn't make me especially unhappy."



## New motor 'will cut cost of space trips'

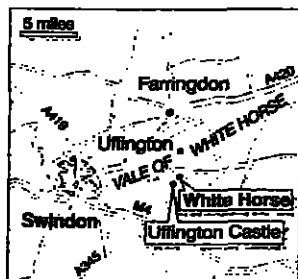
By NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR

A NEW type of rocket motor has been successfully tested by engineers from Surrey University. The motor, a cross between a liquid-fuel and a solid-fuel rocket, has had several successful firings and may ultimately provide a low-cost alternative for altering the orbits of satellites.

Captain Jerry Sellers, of the US Air Force, who is doing a PhD at Surrey's Centre for Satellite Engineering Research, says that the motor has a solid fuel, polyethylene, and a liquid oxidiser, hydrogen peroxide.

The hydrogen peroxide is passed over a catalyst, which decomposes it into oxygen and steam at 600C, and then introduced into a combustion chamber where it oxidises the plastic fuel, generating temperatures of 2,500C.

The great advantage over a solid booster is that the hybrid engine can be turned on and off by controlling the fuel flow. "We are trying to make space more affordable," Captain Sellers said.



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## SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

Dealer South

Game all

♠ 10 7 4  
♥ K 7  
♦ A K Q 9 8  
♣ 10 5 2

♠ A K 9 8 3 2  
♥ Q  
♦ J 7 5  
♣ 9 6 4

W N E S

1♣ Pass  
2♥ Pass  
3♥ Pass  
4♥ Pass  
5♥ Pass  
6♥ Pass  
7♥ Pass  
8♥ Pass  
9♥ Pass  
10♥ Pass  
11♥ Pass  
12♥ Pass

Contract: Four Hearts Redoubled, by South. Opening lead: ♠A

By ROBERT SHEEHAN  
BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

This deal comes from a Danish Juniors training session where the final double and redouble probably stemmed from macho psychology rather than from any belief about the eventual outcome of the contract.

The bidding may have left something to be desired but the same cannot be said about declarer's play. West led the ace and king of spades and switched to the nine of clubs. Declarer assumed a 4-1 trump break and, to have any chance of success, West's singleton had to be an honour, and even then declarer would have his work cut out. He had to cash his winners, score two ruffs in

hand and end up with the lead in dummy.

Declarer cashed three rounds of clubs, played a diamond to dummy and ruffed his master spade at East discarded a club. He now played a diamond to dummy and ruffed a diamond. At this stage declarer had made seven tricks and, with four tricks to play, both South and East had only trumps left. Declarer played a heart to West's queen and dummy's king, and then a heart from dummy. If East had not split his honours declarer would have played the nine; when East in fact played the ten, declarer ducked. Now East was left on play to lead into declarer's tenace and thus couldn't make a second trump trick.

## KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE  
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

### Final assault by Kamsky

The following game completes my publication of all Gata Kamsky's wins in his Fide semi-final match against Valery Salov.

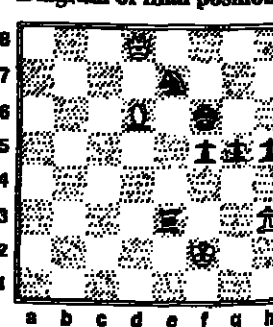
This was ultimately decided in Kamsky's favour by the score of 4 wins, 3 draws and no losses. Kamsky launches a fierce attack that nets the black queen for just a rook and two pawns but even in this desperate situation Salov put up fierce resistance, which brought him close to a draw.

White: Gata Kamsky  
Black: Valery Salov  
Fide Candidates, Samgh Nagar, Game 1, February 1995

### Sicilian Defence

1 e4 c5  
2 Nf3 e6  
3 d4 exd4  
4 Nxd4 Nf6  
5 Nc3 d6  
6 Bg5 Be7  
7 Bxd3 Bxd3  
8 Nf3 Bg5  
9 a3 b5  
10 0-0 Bb7  
11 b4 a5  
12 Bb2 a5  
13 Nxd5 exd5  
14 a4 Nc4  
15 B5 Ne4  
16 Kh1 Nc5  
17 B5 Nxd5  
18 Nf4 Nxd5  
19 Nf5 Nxd5  
20 cxd3 Bc8  
21 Qd1 Rf7  
22 Nbd4 Rf7  
23 Qg3 Rf7  
24 Rde1 Rf7  
25 Nde7 Nxd5  
26 Nc5 Nxd5  
27 Rde7 Bb6  
28 Qc5 Bg4

### Diagram of final position



Winning Move, page 44

Hospital  
second-  
to save

Free cut out in  
sheds light  
colour blind



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the price of m







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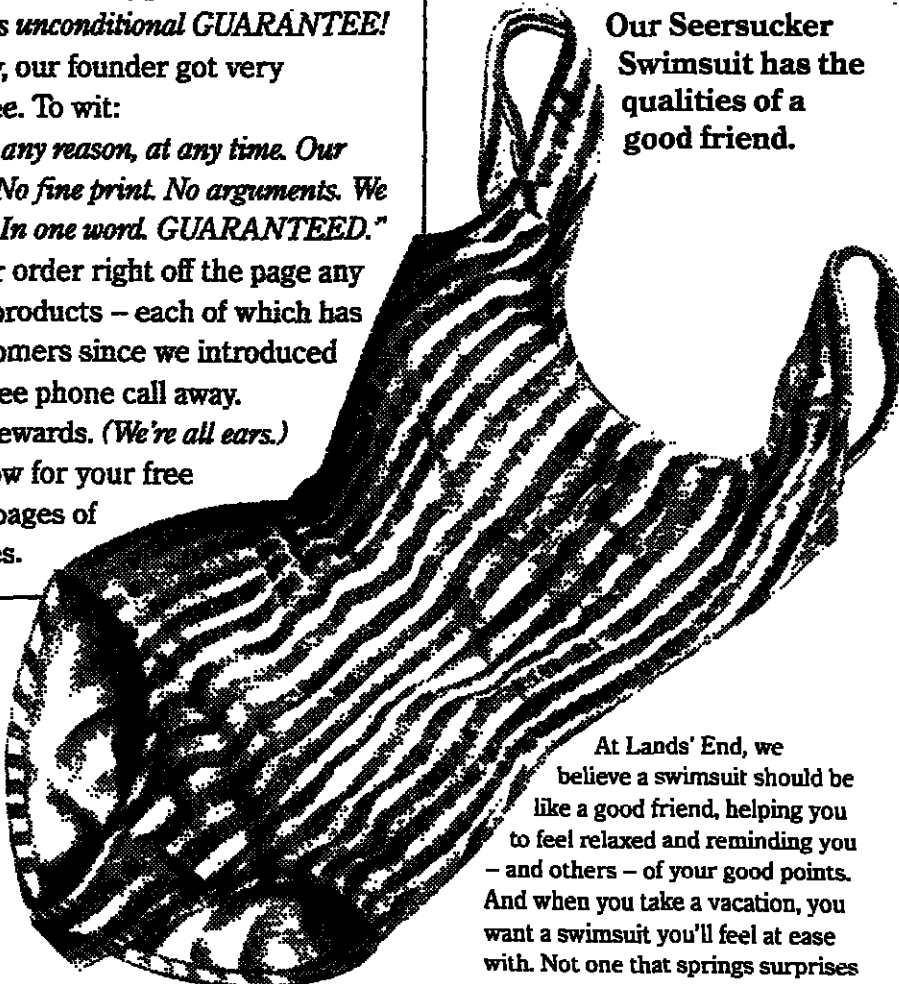
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Cabinet caught in a mess that no one can handle

Labour complains that the Tories pay unfairly





## Ministers promise to learn from Maastricht mistakes

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government will learn from the mistakes it made during the Maastricht treaty negotiations to avoid a damaging storm over next year's conference on Europe. MPs were told yesterday.

Ministers are conscious of the need to appease the Tory party's warring factions on Europe and are considering publishing its plans for the inter-governmental conference in a White Paper.

Yesterday MPs were promised that they will be consulted far more than they were over the Maastricht treaty, which was passed by Parliament only after John Major made the issue one of confidence in the Government.

David Davis, the European Affairs Minister, said: "One of the mistakes that the Prime Minister has recognised in the Maastricht process was to attempt to come back to the UK with a very complex outcome, not having talked about it, debated it, explained it in advance. We

don't intend to repeat that mistake."

Mr Davis, speaking to the Commons European Legislation Select Committee, faced heavy cross-party pressure to specify the ways in which Parliament would be able to influence the Government's contribution to the IGC. MPs urged him to publish a White Paper before the Madrid Euro-summit in December, at which EU members' contributions to the IGC are expected to be considered.

Although Mr Davis said that no decision had been taken on whether to publish a White Paper, he pointed to the recent spate of ministerial speeches as indicative of the Government's determination to ensure that the central issues were debated. He insisted that Britain would take a "robust but constructive approach", calling for further co-operation on common foreign and security policy, home affairs and justice affairs.

Britain would also call for

closer co-operation on defence, a fairer voting system, better budgetary discipline, a crackdown on fraud, an enhanced role for national Parliaments and further entrenchment of subsidiarity — leaving as many decisions as possible to national governments.

But the Government would oppose moves towards a more centralised or more intrusive Europe, any attempts to abolish the veto or to give the European Parliament a massive extension of its powers.

Mr Davis met hostility when he said it was too early to lay down precise plans for consultation. Bill Cash, one of the leading Tory Eurosceptics, said it was "quite astonishing" that MPs could not be given such information.

Mr Davis assured the committee that its members would have the right to send their views direct to the "reflection committee" to be chaired by Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, which will draft Britain's tactics for the IGC.

He also dismissed claims that a European Court ruling expected later this year would force Britain to open up its borders.

The resignation of Charles Wardle, a junior industry minister, fuelled the controversy over whether a declaration allowing Britain to maintain border controls. However, Mr Davis said: "The presumption is that we are going to lose the case in the European Court and that that case will bind us to change our controls. We are not presuming failure. We are going ahead on the presumption of success."

Mr Cash told him: "I find much of what you say rather Alice in Wonderland." Other European countries did not want the same things, and he gave a warning that the European Court was likely to overrule Britain on border controls.

Leading article and Letters, page 19

## Labour unveils hi-tech ambition

By ALEXANDRA FREAN

CABLE television and telecommunications companies would have to link every school, library, GP's surgery and hospital in the country to their nationwide networks under a Labour government.

Chris Smith, the Shadow Heritage Secretary, said yesterday: "We cannot allow a society of information 'haves' and 'have-nots' to develop. A Labour government will want to ensure that the network reaches the whole of the country."

It would, however, be up to the users to ensure that they have the hardware to plug into the network.

Mr Smith was speaking at the launch of Labour's Policy Forum on the Information Superhighway, which will produce a report for the party's annual conference in October.

## Cabinet caught in a mess that no one can hide

The glum looks on the faces of Tory MPs at Prime Minister's question time all the time. The Government is in an almighty mess over a single currency which no amount of manoeuvring by John Major can disguise. The times yesterday he had to step questions from the Opposition would ask ministers, both pro and sceptic,

not an open question. It is ruled out for ever.

But even in the unlikely event that all ministers do take a vow of silence over the next few months, the current line would not stand up during an election campaign. The Opposition parties would ask ministers, both pro and sceptic,

### RIDDELL ON POLITICS

whether they would join a single currency during the life of the following parliament. Would Mr Portillo and Mr Aitken really be willing to say they could envisage Britain joining a single currency in 1999? Mr Clarke and the pro-Europeans are determined not to rule out that option.

Promising a referendum on a single currency may be justified as a way of ensuring popular consent for such a large step, though its constitutional implications are too readily dismissed. But a referendum would not ensure unity. It would in part be an admission of failure: that the Cabinet could not reach agreement on a fundamental economic and political issue. As the Liberal Democrats' debate on Monday showed, there is a danger of regarding a referendum as a substitute for an agreed policy on Europe.

There are many traps ahead for Mr Major. Senior Tories are not going to be silent. Other European leaders may raise the issue, and probably will after the French elections. The parliamentary arithmetic remains uncertain for the Government. The nine rebels remain whipless, and the Ulster Unionists are rumbling loudly about next week's framework document.

Nineteen ninety-five was supposed to be the year when the Tories staged a recovery. They started the year strongly as Labour was temporarily in disarray over Clause Four and education. But the Opposition has recovered its balance, while the Tories have slid back into all their familiar troubles. Each time this happens, the risk of collapse increases.

PETER RIDDELL

## Labour complains of forces pay unfairness

By ALICE THOMSON AND JAMES LANDALE

S&R officers in the armed forces being granted big pay rises at the expense of the lowly ranks. Labour claimed yesterday.

David Clark, Shadow Defence Secretary, told the Commons that since 1979 an Adj's pay had increased by 100 per cent while an Able Seaman's pay had fallen by 15 per cent.

At a time when the full cost of expenditure for the rest of top brass has been exposed it is simply untenable that those in the low ranks have suffered so much under the Conservative Government, Mr Clark said. "Our soldiers and seamen are the

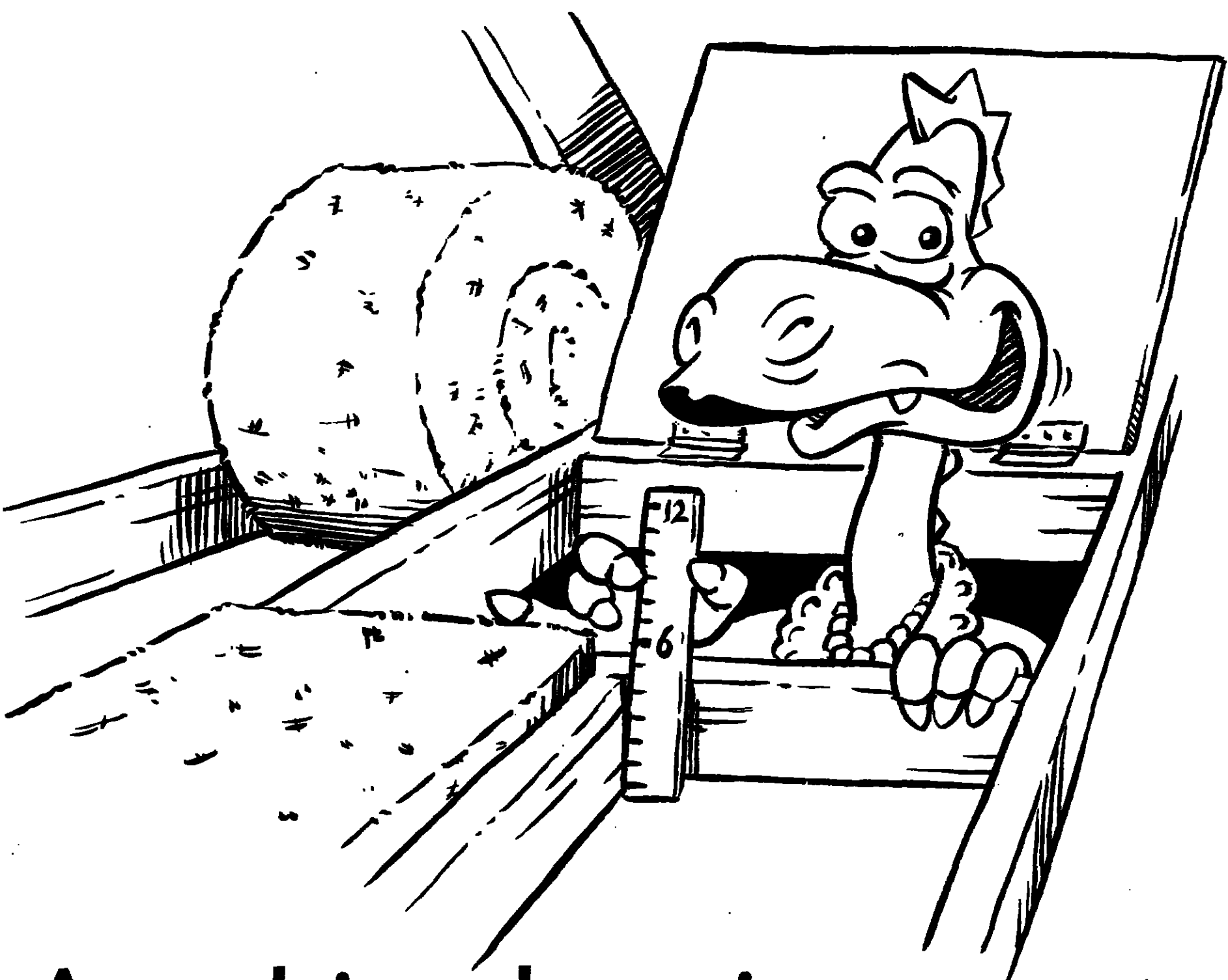
best in the world and this has been seen time and again in places like Bosnia."

In a debate on the Royal Navy, Labour also said that since 1979 the number of navy personnel had been cut by 18,000 to a total of 54,000. The number of ratings had been cut by 25 per cent, but the number of officers had been cut by only 8.4 per cent. Derek Fatchett, a Labour defence spokesman, said: "It is those at the bottom which have taken the brunt."

The Ministry of Defence said last night: "Forces' pay is decided by the Armed Forces Pay Review Body, which is an independent organisation."

### IN PARLIAMENT

YESAY: In the Commons, the debate on Northern Ireland will follow a debate on the Royal Navy. The Pensions Bill will have second reading. The House of Lords is not sitting.



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# Israel opens door to Palestinians barred from work

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI agreed yesterday to allow a gradual lifting of the ban on 60,000 Palestinian workers from entering its territory, imposed after the January 22 suicide bombing that killed 21 Jews. It also sanctioned a speeding up of talks on the next stage of the peace process, which is six months behind schedule.

The limited concessions were announced after a summit meeting held on the border with the autonomous Gaza Strip where the closure has exacerbated economic hardship among Palestinians, already facing an unemployment rate of more than 50 per cent. Earlier, Palestinian police arrested ten Islamic militants as officials were named to a controversial new military court in Gaza set up to try security cases. The court, based on the Egyptian model to try fundamentalists, has been criticised by Palestinian human rights campaigners.

Under yesterday's agreement, which was an attempt to lift the crisis atmosphere surrounding the peace process in recent weeks, 15,000 workers will be able to cross again into the Jewish state. Israeli officials said that 10,000 will come from the overcrowded Gaza Strip and the rest from the West Bank, where Israeli troops are supposed to be pulling back and Palestinian elections taking place. No date has yet been set for this delayed operation.

While Yasser Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organisation leader, and Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime

Minister, were involved in rebuilding the collapsing peace process, hundreds of militant Jews attended a provocative ceremony to honour the memory of Baruch Goldstein, who murdered 29 Palestinian worshippers in a Hebron mosque a year ago.

Mr Arafat and Mr Rabin barred the media from their summit in an attempt to hide just how wide their differences have become. But the Israeli right-wing extremists, paying homage to a mass-murderer who was bludgeoned to death as he shot unarmed civilians, revelled in the press and television coverage.

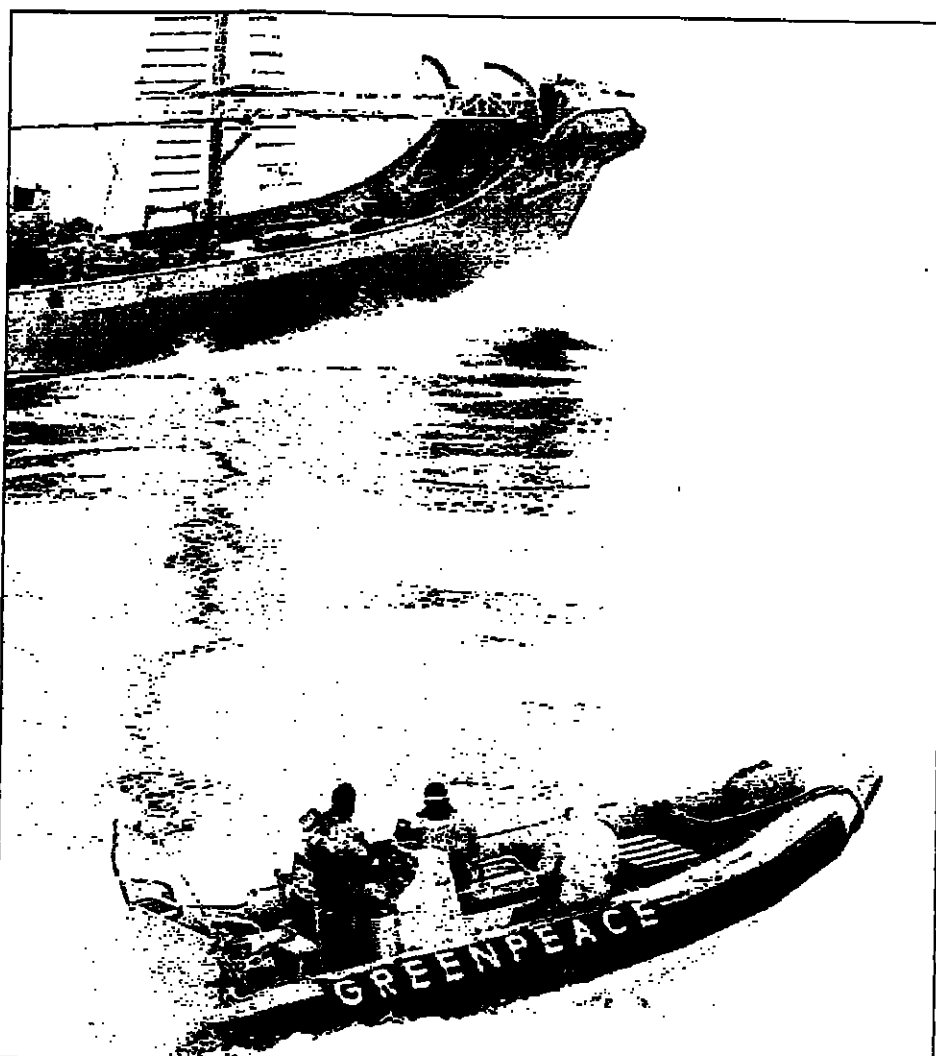
The memorial gathering — near the huge, marble tombstone erected at the settlement of Kiryat Arba overlooking Hebron, where Goldstein, an immigrant doctor from Brooklyn, had lived with 6,000 other Jews — was a chilling reminder of the intense hatred waiting to be unleashed if the 17-month peace accord cannot be revived.

The event took place despite a 24-hour curfew imposed on Hebron the previous night by the Israeli army, and against the wishes of many leading left-wing politicians, some of whom had called on the military to ban the meeting. Senior Israeli sources said this was not done because the Government feared a confrontation with the settlers which could degenerate into a Jewish civil war.

Shulamit Aloni, the Culture Minister, criticised the army for failing to take steps to prevent the grave being

turned into "a strange shrine of massacre and hatred". The revulsion felt by the majority of Israeli Jews towards those attending the ceremony for a man who has become a cult figure for a fanatical minority of their fellow countrymen was voiced by Amnon Rubinstein, the Education Minister, who described the anti-Arab gathering as "anti-Jewish and horrifying". Mr Rubinstein, one of those who called in vain for the army to ban the event, claimed that such a memorial would not have been permitted had the mass-murderer been a member of an extreme Islamic group.

Shalom Sharabi, another Brooklyn-born Jew and a friend of Goldstein's, voiced sentiments to be heard from many attending yesterday's memorial service. "He is beyond a hero, he is more than a hero, he is like my brother," Mr Sharabi said. "He was a perfect human being."



A Greenpeace vessel challenges a Japanese whaler yesterday as it hunts for minke whales within the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary, a protected area

## Township students run riot

BY INIGO GILMORE

HUNDREDS of black pupils yesterday went on the rampage through Cape Town city centre after a protest against racist attacks by white rightwingers.

Gangs of black youths ransacked market stalls and assaulted residents and journalists. Several people were mugged and a tourist was reported to have been stabbed.

The trouble began after about 8,000 township pupils who had protested outside the parliament building began dispersing. Members of the teachers' union and the Congress of South African Students showed their solidarity by occupying the office of Hermanus Kriel, the Western Cape Premier, to demand the resignation of Martha Ockers, the regional Education Minister.

The protest followed three days of clashes between 5,000 black schoolchildren and whites in the Ruyterwacht district. Residents armed with sjamboks and baseball bats have tried to stop the children from entering a disused primary school.

## Musician killed in Algeria

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN ALGIERS

ONE OF Algeria's most popular musicians, known by his stage name of "Rachid," was shot dead in front of his store in Oran, television reports said yesterday.

Rachid and his brother formed a singing duo specialising in "rai" music, a sensual mix of traditional Arab and Western beats condemned by Islamic extremists.

His reported killing, for which no group has claimed responsibility, was the latest in a series of murders of artists, intellectuals and activists that has intensified since the start of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan on February 1. Islamic extremists have vowed to intensify their jihad during Ramadan.

On Wednesday, the president of a feminist organisation was assassinated in the Berber capital of Tizi Ouzou. On Tuesday, gunmen killed a Foreign Ministry administrator. An estimated 30,000 people have been killed since the start of an Islamic insurgency three years ago that has pitted militants against the security forces.

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## Judgment scuppers pilgrims' vessel

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

AN ISRAELI pleasure-boat company carrying Christian pilgrims on the Sea of Galilee has been ordered to stop naming its craft after Jesus.

Ruling in the bizarre copyright suit filed by Holyland Sailing Ltd against Kinneret Sailing Company Ltd, Judge Gideon Ginat decreed in an interim judgement in the Nazareth district court that only Holyland Sailing has the right to use the name "Jesus Boat" to describe the vessels it uses to ferry pilgrims to such holy sites as Capernaum.

The roots of the dispute go back to 1986 when the remains of a 28ft wooden fishing boat were found embedded in the mud of the sea, which is also known as Lake Kinneret. Since the remarkably well-preserved craft was from the 1st century AD, the period of Jesus, many of whose disciples were fishermen, the vessel soon became known as "The Jesus Boat".

Four years later, according to *The Jerusalem Post*, Reuven Ben-Dori, a veteran Jewish tourist entrepreneur who specialised in Christian pilgrimages, came up with the idea of sailing similar boats on the sea. His company had two boats specially built and named them *Peter* and *John*.

All was going smoothly until two weeks ago, when the rival company, which until then had been using a fleet of eight metal-hulled pleasure boats, launched its own replica biblical craft, named them *Matthew* and *Mary* and advertised that it was also offering pilgrims the chance to sail in a "Jesus Boat". Holyland Sailing smartly summoned its lawyers and sued.

Judge Ginat was quick to make an initial judgment that there was not room on the picturesque sea for two rival fleets of boats named after Jesus. Kinneret Sailing was also ordered to contribute towards costs. A final ruling is expected soon.

## Bangkok border warning

Bangkok: Thailand has warned Burma not to violate Thai territory in its offensive against Karen guerrillas operating near the border of the two countries.

Surin Pitsuwan, Thailand's acting Foreign Minister, also told Burma's Ambassador that his Government would not tolerate incidents such as last week's abduction of a senior guerrilla official from a refugee camp in Thailand by Karens allied to the Burmese rulers. (Reuters)

## Rainforest alert

Suva: The South Pacific's tropical rainforests could disappear in 15 to 20 years unless urgent action is taken, the World Bank said before a regional economics meeting in Fiji. (Reuters)

## Election death

Gwahabati: A political worker was shot dead by an unknown man as voting began in the northeastern Indian state of Manipur. About 40,000 members of the security forces are on duty. (Reuters)

## Corruption fear

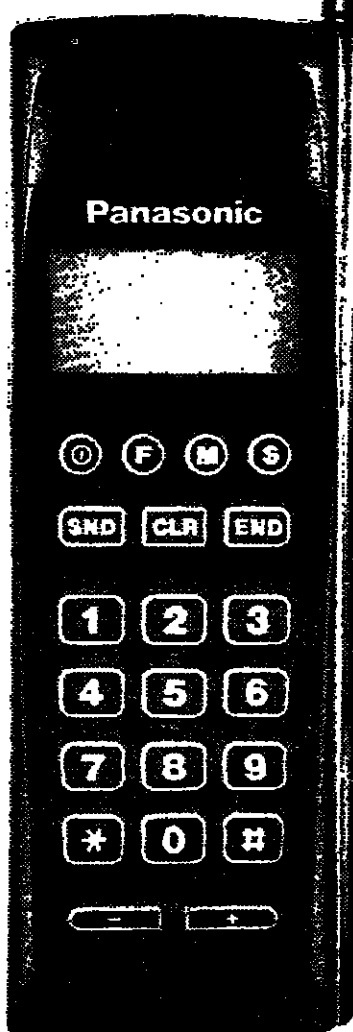
Peking: In a strong warning, Li Peng, China's Premier, has said that corruption and abuse of power have angered the public and could threaten Communist Party rule, the official media reported. (AP)

## Stage revival

New York: The actress Julie Andrews is to return to Broadway after a 35-year absence with an adaptation of her 1982 comedy film *Victor/Victoria*, in which she plays a female impersonator. (AFP)

## Hot pursuit

Sofia: A Bulgarian worker, 44, emerged unscathed after spending four minutes in a 400F steel plant furnace hoping to enter the *Guinness Book of Records*, the daily 24 Chassa said. (AFP)



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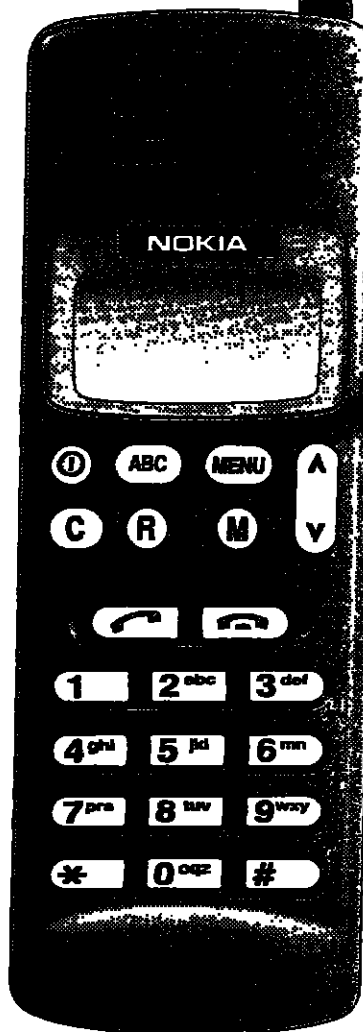
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# Student warriors cut swath through Afghan opposition

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN ISLAMABAD

TALEBAN, the Islamic students' army, is sitting on the outskirts of Kabul with enough artillery, tanks, rockets and heavily armed men to blow the Afghan capital to pieces, after sweeping across the country, defeating its enemies and astounding neutral observers.

Yesterday the soldiers, backed by 200 tanks and a dozen MiG-21 aircraft, issued an ultimatum that forced troops of President Rabbani to pull back towards the capital. They also seized more territory from Mr Rabbani's rival, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the former Prime Minister.

The Taleban were also demanding control of other positions once held by Mr Hekmatyar's troops, whose stronghold at Charasayab, 15 miles from Kabul, fell to the students on Tuesday. The Rabbani forces withdrew from three strategic points on the southern fringe of Kabul on Wednesday and moved closer to the city.

The force has gained popular support in just six months with their strict Islamic agenda in a country led by Rabbani

loyalists and Mr Hekmatyar's Hezb-i-Islami since the collapse of the communist regime in April 1992, and riven by factional fighting.

Almost like a ghost army the student force appeared to come from nowhere and marched through the southern provinces with ease, knocking out all opposition and collecting weapons and converts along the way. It now has 25,000 men, many of them former mujahidin skilled in warfare. They are mostly Pashtuns, the dominant ethnic group in Afghanistan, leaving Tajiks, Uzbeks and others nervous.

Taleban, which means "Islamic theology students", was first noticed when it freed a Pakistani trade convoy hijacked by warlords in Kandahar province in November. Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence Agency (ISI), the military intelligence body, was suspected of creating it.

This seems unlikely: a Pashtun army this powerful could threaten the break-up of Pakistan by resurrecting the dream of Pashtunistan, straddling the Afghan-Pakistan

border. Pashtuns are pathans, the generic term for Farsi-speaking tribes, and are more attached to ethnic identity than to Pakistan. They form much of the population of the North West Frontier Province and have long nursed the idea of nationhood.

ISI supported Afghan resistance groups fighting the occupation by the former Soviet Union from 1979-89. Mr Hekmatyar, the most anti-Western of Afghanistan's leaders, accuses Pakistan and Sir Nicholas Barrington, a retired British High Commissioner to Islamabad, of creating Taleban. The accusation has been denied.

Naseerullah Babar, Pakistan's Interior Minister, admitted a closeness between Taleban's mission and "our perceptions," but denied any involvement in its creation. Instability in Afghanistan has created a vast refugee problem in the North West Frontier Province. War has allowed a drugs and guns culture to spread across the border, which is behind the virtual collapse of Karachi, the commercial capital. Taleban's



Fighters from President Rabbani's Jamiat-i-Islami in Kabul yesterday prepare for an onslaught by the Taleban Islamic student army

secret is its timing: people have turned to it because they are sick of the established private armies, which have reduced the country to rubble. They want Taleban to impose

order. Its declared strategy is to disarm former mujahidin groups as it defeats them and to wipe out the drugs trade as it progresses. It now controls a third of the country. Such

idealism may not last, but for now it promises hope. Taleban's early recruits were Afghan refugees attending Islamic schools in the Pakistani border province of Baluchi-

stan. These theological aspects are now overshadowed by its military credentials. It contains former army officers, mujahidin and a sprinkling of local warlords. Kabul is with-

in its grasp: beyond that traditionally Pashtun city, however, lies non-Pashtun country to the north and west, which will be harder to conquer.

## Blasphemy case lawyer attacked

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN LAHORE

MUSLIM militants yesterday threatened a lawyer who appealed against the death sentences passed against a 14-year-old boy and his uncle on blasphemy charges.

The incident occurred outside the Lahore High Court when the lawyer, Asma Jehangir, came out after a hearing of the appeal. As she walked to her car, about 200 bearded men wearing green turbans shouted threats and then grabbed and beat her driver, witnesses said. Her car was also damaged. Ms Jehangir was allowed to leave after some bystanders intervened.

"It has become increasingly difficult for us to pursue the case," she said. "If they beat my driver, damage my car, they can also kill me tomorrow."

Ms Jehangir also charged opposing lawyers with attempted murder and instigating the threats against her. She is leading the appeal before a two-judge bench.

Salamat Masih, 14, and Rehmat Masih, 44, both Christians, were convicted by a lower court here a week ago of writing blasphemous remarks against the prophet Muhammad and throwing them into a mosque.

Another family member, Manzoor Masih, also accused in the blasphemy case, was killed by unidentified gunmen in Lahore last year.

Benazir Bhutto, the Prime Minister, said earlier this week she was "shocked and unhappy" at the sentences.

Bernard Levin, page 18



Salamat Masih, 14, faces death penalty

## 'Bandit queen' leads crusade against India's caste system

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS

PHOOLAN DEVI, India's illiterate "bandit queen", has come a long way from the squalor of life on the run. "So many things are happening to me," she said yesterday, smiling at her new husband.

An authorised biography of her is to be published soon in France and she says she has been invited to visit Japan. She lives in a smart suburb of south Delhi — in unimaginable luxury compared with her home village in Madhya Pradesh — and has just formed a social welfare organisation, Eaklavya Sena, named after a low-caste character from the Hindu epic, *Mahabharata*. "It will fight

for poor, low-caste rural women," she said.

"Poor people are exploited by the wealthy. I did not become a dacoit [bandit] because I wanted to, but because I was forced into it."

She was gang-raped at the age of 11 by high-caste Thakurs and later formed a gang that was accused of killing 22 Thakur men in 1981.

She was kept in prison for ten years, without going to trial, until her release last year after low-caste politicians came to power in the important northern state of Uttar Pradesh. There are 55 charges still pending against her.

She said she objected to a

film about her, *Bandit Queen*, because it was an inaccurate portrayal of her life. The film opened in London this week.

Miss Devi is apparently upset by a rape scene. She said the film did not properly convey the plight of low-caste women. "The caste system has no place in Indian society," she added. "I do not believe in the Gandhian philosophy of turning the other cheek. Leaders have to be opposed for perpetuating the system."

Yesterday, she handled herself deftly at the Foreign Correspondents' Club in Delhi. She insisted that she had no intention of entering politics, despite many offers.

## Manila orders jets to disputed islands

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN MANILA

THE Philippines yesterday sent five jet fighters — its entire airworthy force — to the Spratly Islands after alleged Chinese incursions into areas claimed by Manila.

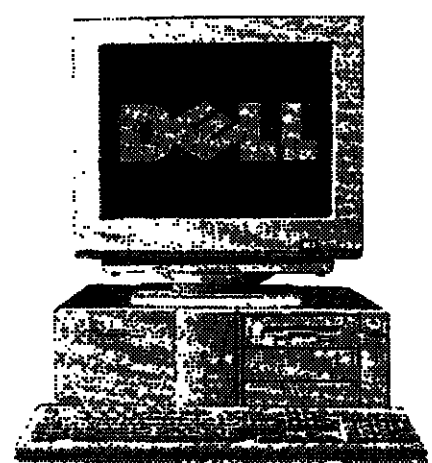
Tension rose in the South China Sea islands in the wake of an allegation last week by President Ramos that Chinese naval vessels had built a platform on the Pangasinan Reef and briefly detained Filipino fishermen. The fighters were sent to increase surveillance in the area.

A Manila television station, ABS-CBN, last night cast doubt on the Government's claims that the Chinese had made fresh incursions on the reef. In a report it quoted

unidentified officials as saying that the Chinese had been manning some islets near the reef for years. The station said it sent a crew to the area to investigate, but they were detained by the Philippines navy.

China and the Philippines are among six countries which claim the mineral-rich islands. Other claimants are Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei. China has denied any military incursion and says the platform is a refuge for fishermen.

In a related development, the Philippines Senate unanimously approved a proposal to modernise the military in 15 years.



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# House throws out Gingrich plan to revive 'star wars'

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE Republicans suffered their first big defeat since taking control of Congress when the House of Representatives voted down their attempt to revive large parts of President Reagan's "star wars" programme.

By 218 votes to 212 on Wednesday night, the House backed a Democratic amendment that said building a national defence against ballistic missiles was less important than maintaining the readiness of America's armed forces and developing a system to defend combat troops against short-range missiles such as Iraqi Scuds.

Two dozen Republican Congressmen, mostly ardent deficit cutters, defied their party leadership and joined the Democrats after the Administration said that the Republican plan would divert billions of scarce defence dollars from more pressing needs to fight a threat that did not yet exist.

The Republican plan, part of Newt Gingrich's *Contract with America*, would have required the deployment of a system to defend the United States against missile attacks "at the earliest possible date". Rose DeLauro, a Connecticut Democrat, called it "a boondoggle in the sky that may even be paid for in American lives".

The vote came during a highly-charged debate on a broader Bill which directly challenged President Clinton's national security priorities and, if enacted, would change the direction of American foreign policy. The National Sec-

urity Revitalisation Act, on which the House was voting last night, would impose tough new restrictions on America's funding for United Nations peacekeeping operations and participation in them. It also called for an early expansion of Nato eastwards and stronger national defence.

Democrats said the measure would destroy both UN peacekeeping and the President's ability to deal with foreign crises. "This legislation reverses one half-century of American leadership," Robert Torricelli, a New Jersey Democrat, said. "We are losing our leadership to isolationism."

Republicans portrayed the Bill as a long-overdue measure to prevent the Clinton Administration rushing headlong into any more botched UN operations like Somalia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, or surrendering control of American foreign policy to a UN

which most Americans now view with suspicion.

"This is not about isolationism. This is an America-comes-first policy. The American people will not stand for the military adventurism of a liberal elite," Dana Rohrabacher, a Californian Republican, said.

Robert Dole, the Senate's Republican leader, has introduced legislation in his chamber that would also restrict American support for UN peacekeeping operations, but President Clinton has all but announced that he would veto any Bill along those lines.

Earlier yesterday the House voted 211-207 in favour of establishing a national security commission to examine American defence needs and force structure. William Perry, the Defence Secretary, had strongly opposed this intrusion on his responsibilities.

In another sign of the growing "America first" attitude taking hold in Congress, the Senate budget committee's Republican majority has drafted a report calling for the termination of a wide range of US peacekeeping, international lending and arms control programmes.

The report was leaked to *The Washington Post*, which said it reflected the widespread view that "US dollars have been ill-spent on international adventures". Specifically, the US would end its support for unspecified "multilateral development banks" most UN programmes and America's own Agency for International Development.



Perry: sees challenge to his responsibilities



George Bush holds the hand of Norma Earley after his tee shot struck her nose



George Bush, Gerald Ford and Bill Clinton were joined by Bob Hope in their eventful round of golf

## Spectators under par as Presidents tee off

BY GILES WHITTELL

ROUNDING off a brief visit to California, President Clinton lost a golf match to his predecessor George Bush, but at least did not injure any voters in the process.

Mr Clinton shot an erratic 93 on a par 68 course after teeing off with two past Presidents and the 91-year old Bob Hope in the veteran comedian's invitation tournament at the desert spa of Indian Wells.

Mr Bush had an indifferent 92, but scores were overshadowed by what the former President might have called collateral damage — he claimed an early casualty with a stray drive on the first hole, striking the elderly Norma Earley, of Vista, near San Diego, on the bridge of her nose and shattering her glasses. She was given first aid on the spot, then taken to the

Eisenhower Medical Centre to receive ten stitches.

Mr Bush, not content with one spectator, hit another on the buttock while meandering towards the 14th hole. Gerald Ford, meanwhile, had drawn blood from the left index finger of spectator Geraldine Gramash on the 17th.

Mr Bush appeared less than thrilled with his golf. It had been "comme ci, comme ça", he said.

Bob Hope played all 18 holes, fishing new balls from his pockets as required. Like the hordes of Secret Service agents on hand, he travelled by golf cart instead of walking, but still earned the President's gushing admiration.

"I had the worst round I've had in three or four years, but I had a wonderful time," Mr Clinton said.

## Episcopal church in new row

New York: The Episcopal Church, the American branch of the Anglican communion, is facing a new scandal over missing funds after a tumultuous month that has shaken the faith of many churchgoers (James Bone writes). Presiding Bishop Edmond Browning, the top Episcopal official, revealed this week that "evidence of certain irregularities" had been discovered after the resignation of the church's treasurer at the end of January. The scandal follows the resignation of a bishop over "exploitative" extra-marital affairs and the ordination of a homosexual deacon.

## Buchanan joins presidential race

Washington: Pat Buchanan, the right-wing firebrand whose White House challenge embarrassed George Bush in the 1992 primaries, announced yesterday that he is preparing to run for president again (Ian Brodie writes). He said he will focus on abortion and illegal immigration and will campaign for a trade policy that will add to America's standard of living, not hamper its decline. He is an outspoken critic of President Clinton's trade agreements and bail-out of the Mexican peso.

## Lawyers delay Andreotti trial

Rome: Lawyers defending Giulio Andreotti, the former Christian Democrat Prime Minister who faces charges of corruption and Mafia collusion, asked for a fourth delay in the hearing scheduled for today after prosecutors produced 150 pages of fresh evidence (John Phillips writes). The existing court file is 1,200 pages long. Much of the new testimony was provided by Giacomino Pennino, a Mafia boss who is turning state's evidence.

## Hard to swallow

Reims: French shellfish farmers are choking on a 4,000-tonne oyster mountain caused by a slide in foreign orders and a mild winter that has let the molluscs get too fat. Including the shell, some weigh in at more than 1lb each. "They're perfectly edible, but they don't fit French eating habits," said Bernard Logeoux, president of the local shellfish breeders' association. (Reuters)

## New York to resume executions

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

AGREEMENT has been reached on legislation to restore the death penalty in New York state after the election of a Republican Governor last year.

George Pataki, the governor, who has already shipped one prisoner off to face execution in another state, struck a deal with legislators to make New York the 38th US state with the death penalty. The Bill prescribes a maximum penalty of death by lethal injection for serial killers, terrorists, professional hit-men and those who murder witnesses or police. It excludes the mentally ill, unless they kill while already in jail.

Officials estimate that between 15 and 20 per cent of the 2,300 murders that take place in the state every year would fall within the statute. A vote on the legislation is expected on March 1, and the new law will probably take effect in the autumn.

"There is no question in my mind it will be a deterrent," said Mr Pataki. "It will save lives. It will reduce the number of murders." The last time New York executed a prisoner was in 1963.

## O.J. Simpson alibi witness flees from media hounding

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

A KEY defence witness in the O.J. Simpson murder trial has fled to her native El Salvador.

Rosa Lopez, a maid who worked for Mr Simpson's neighbour in Brentwood, had told defence lawyers that she saw his car outside his house at the time the prosecution says his former wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman were being murdered. Fearful of media harassment, Ms Lopez left the country on Wednesday and told her employer she would not be back.

She has been hounded by the press since Johnnie Cochran, a defence lawyer, mentioned her by name in his opening statement. Ms Lopez was also upset by the fate of another potential defence witness whose evidence was previewed for the jury by Mr Cochran last month.

Many Anne Gerchak, a jeweller who claims to have seen four male youths leaving the murder scene, has since been branded a "pathological liar and known Simpson groupie" by prosecutors, and arrested twice in two weeks for alleged financial misdeeds. "The first arrest upset her," Ms Lopez's lawyer said yesterday. "I can

only imagine what the second one did."

Mr Cochran has promised to find her even though her employer and lawyer claimed to have no forwarding address. "If she left the country, we're going where she is," he said. "She's important." If she is found and refuses to return to California, Mr Cochran said the procedure would be for lawyers from both sides to fly to El Salvador and take videotaped evidence from her. Judge Lance Ito has said he may ask the American Embassy in San Salvador for help in contacting Ms Lopez.

Equally dispiriting for Mr Simpson's defence was the revelation that his blood had been found on a gate at the back of Brown Simpson's home. The prosecution announced on Wednesday that the DNA analysis had linked the blood to Mr Simpson, and that further tests would show it could not have been planted by police.

The defence objected to any further testing and pointed out that the blood was nearly three weeks old before investigators found it. Mr Simpson has pleaded not guilty to the murders. The trial continues.

## Delinquent is all-American hero



Hines rescued children from burning home

Pine Bluff, Arkansas: A teenager with a history of delinquency saved the lives of a dozen children and two adults from a burning mobile home here.

Steven Hines, 17, was riding his bicycle home from a shop when he spotted flames from the chimney. He opened the unlocked door, to find the occupants, including two babysitters in their 70s, dazed by the fire. He rushed inside and carried the 12 children, aged 4 to 13 to safety.

It was not until hours later that he realised what he had done. "I got scared then," he said. "Flames were moving across like waves on the ocean stuff was melting. It was like a marshmallow." A 9-year-old boy died in the blaze.

which the authorities said started near a wood-burning stove.

The next day, Andrew Tolbert, Steven's principal at Pine Bluff High School, wanted to honour the youth at a school assembly — but he was playing truant and could not be found at home. "His attendance has not been consistent, at best," Mr Tolbert said, adding that this should not overshadow his heroism.

Steven's behaviour outside school has also not been beyond criticism and he has been in state juvenile rehabilitation centres twice. "I was young. I was doing things my brothers do and hanging out with the wrong crowd," he said. "I have better things to do than that." (AP)

## US asks Britain to stem Cuban exodus

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN GRAND CAYMAN

THE United States has requested British help to stem a new flow of Cuban refugees heading for American soil from a temporary refuge in the Cayman Islands, which lie about 100 miles off Cuba's south coast.

Earlier this week, 143 Cuban refugees at a "tent city" in Grand Cayman tried to make a dash for the Florida coast in a mini-flotilla, with the help of alleged smugglers. After a five-day journey of

about 700 miles, more than 40 Cubans arrived on the west coast of Florida, south of Sarasota. About 100 others were intercepted by the US Coast Guard, some of them just yards from the beach. They are now being repatriated on two Coast Guard cutters to the Caymans.

The US formally asked Britain on Wednesday to take back the refugees. Failing that, it said it would take them to the US naval base at Guantanamo Bay. US officials said they could not afford to

allow detained Cubans to seek asylum, for fear that it might spark a new refugee exodus from Cuba.

Peter Westmacott, a British Embassy spokesman in Washington said: "We have logged the request. We are obviously giving it our consideration." But British sources said the matter must first be discussed with the Government of the Cayman Islands. Although the islands are a British dependency, the local Government is in charge of immigration.

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# Mrs Churchill's fund

Mary Soames  
remembers  
her mother's  
invaluable work  
for the wartime  
Red Cross Aid to  
Russia Fund

When Germany attacked Russia in 1941, Winston Churchill, despite his lifelong hostility to communism, at once declared Great Britain's determination to ally itself with the Soviet Union in its ferocious struggle against the Nazi invaders. As German troops advanced into the heartland of Russia, the long and gruelling defence brought appalling hardship to the Russian people. News of their suffering aroused a wave of sympathy throughout Britain, and there was a general, spontaneous desire to organise relief for the new ally.

The overall priority was for medical and surgical supplies, and it soon became clear that the scale of Russian needs and the difficulties of procuring and delivering them called for a co-ordinated national effort.

The Red Cross and St John War Organisation decided to launch the Red Cross Aid to Russia Fund and Clementine Churchill agreed to become its chairman. She was deeply moved by the sufferings of the Russian people and accurately gauged the strength of sympathy for the Russian cause.

The Red Cross Aid to Russia Fund was launched in mid-October 1941. The response was immediate: just before Christmas, Clementine Churchill was able to broadcast the almost incredible news that the fund had already passed its £1 million target.

Throughout the country flag days were held and Anglo-Soviet weeks organised. Auctions and theatrical galas took place, schoolchildren and office workers all raised money on a regular basis, and the Red Cross Penny-a-Week Fund was strongly supported by industrial workers. In 1943, £12,500 was raised at the England v Wales football match, the largest sum ever raised for charity by one sporting event.



Clementine Churchill (right) and Mabel Johnson meet Professor Sarkison, of the Soviet Red Cross, before their 1945 trip to the Soviet Union

## MRS. CHURCHILL OFF TO RUSSIA!!!

Mrs. Churchill is going to Russia at the invitation of the Soviet Government and Soviet Red Cross.

to inform the public of the total supplies sent. By October 1942, 11 months after the appeal's launch, 18 consignments had been shipped to the Soviet Union. In addition to portable X-ray units and ambulances, supplies included clothing, bedding, drugs and a large range of surgical instruments.

A number of other, politically motivated organisations also established funds for helping Russia, but none of these agencies caught the imagination of the public as

much as "Mrs Churchill's fund". The Red Cross Aid to Russia Fund was apolitical, allowing people to respond purely on a humanitarian basis. However, there was no doubt that the name of Churchill, combined with the respect and confidence inspired by Clementine herself, fired the enthusiasm of people throughout the country.

Towards the end of 1944, Clementine was invited by the Soviet Government and the Soviet Red Cross to visit the

USSR, an invitation she warmly accepted.

Clementine arrived in Moscow on April 2, 1945, accompanied by her own private secretary, Grace Hamblin, and by Mabel Johnson (secretary to the fund). The central purpose of their visit was to arrange for the re-equipment of two hospitals at Rostov-on-Don with 500 beds in each, which would stand as a lasting memorial to the fund. But when they saw the scale of the needs, it was decided to increase the number to 1,500 beds. The on-the-spot revision of plans highlighted the practical value of Clementine's visit.

Through the British Embassy Clementine received messages from Winston. On April 2, he cabled: "At the moment you are the one bright spot in Anglo-Russian relations."

In a cable on April 6, he told her: "Please speak always of my earnest desire for continuing friendship of British and Russian peoples and of my resolve to work for its perseveringly."

Winston had warned her that once she left Moscow and was out of touch with the embassy, any secret communications must cease, and that cables would be in clear. But from telegrams her husband sent, they learnt of the forward surge of liberating armies, the execution of Mussolini, the surrender of German forces in Italy, and how, on April 30, Hitler had shot himself in the air-raid bunker of the Chancellery in Berlin.

Although deeply engrossed by her daily programme, Clementine now yearned to be at home and at Winston's side. But it was not until May 5 that she and her party arrived back in Moscow. Now she could receive fuller news, and in a private cable to her on May 4, Winston confided: "You seem to have had a triumphant tour and I only wish matters would be settled between you and the Russian common people." He continued: "We are all occupied here with preparations for Victory—European Day. I need scarcely tell you that beneath these triumphs lie poisonous politics and deadly international rivalries."

On VE-Day on May 8, she cabled him from Moscow: "All my thoughts are with you on this supreme day, my darling. It could not have happened without you."

A religious service was hastily arranged and held at the British Embassy, and in the afternoon Clementine listened to Winston's broadcast from London. The following evening she broadcast a message to Moscow radio from Prime Minister Churchill to Marshal Stalin: "It is my firm belief that on the friendship and understanding between the British and Russian peoples depends the future of mankind."

On May 11, the morning of her departure, she wrote a letter in her own hand to Marshal Stalin:

"I have seen with sorrow some of the ravages caused by a wicked and ruthless enemy and observed the dignity, courage and patience of your people."

"I have enjoyed the most warm-hearted hospitality and everywhere I have been welcomed with the greatest kindness and enthusiasm."

"I know of the international difficulties which have not been surmounted, but I know also of my husband's resolve and confidence that a complete understanding between the English-speaking world and the Soviet Union will be achieved and maintained as this is the only hope of the world."

Soon after her return home, Clementine wrote a booklet entitled *My Visit to Russia*. Reading it now with the hindsight of the Cold War, one finds the protestations of friendship ring somewhat hollow. But one must try to recapture the atmosphere of those days—the feelings of the British people who had been awestruck by the heroism and suffering of the Russians and expressed their support of the Red Cross Aid to Russia Fund. By 1947, although active fund-raising had ceased in 1945, the fund stood at £7,984,000.

In ending the account of her visit to Russia, Clementine wrote: "I prayed as I turned to take my farewell look at Moscow, 'May difficulties and misunderstandings pass, may friendship remain'."

In 1995 these words have a ring of hope, indeed.

● Extracted from *I Owe My Life*... (Bloomsbury, £15.99)

## Who cares if the facts don't fit the story?

Writers have few qualms about riding roughshod over the truth

Nostalgia for old maids on bicycles, casting long shadows over county grounds and drinking warm beer at Holy Communion, is not an affliction of mine. Maybe I read too many pre-war novels to have a rosy view of how it was, especially for the old maids. However, gazing absently at the title-page of an old Dorothy L. Sayers murder mystery ("The characters and situations in this book are entirely imaginary...") I have suddenly decided that there is one Basic I would like to get back to. I think it is high time that writers of fiction went back to inventing their own plots.

Proper writers make it up. They let character and story grow naturally out of random images, over-

scripts from the court case and interviews McAllister gave to a newspaper. On that base is invention: conversations, motives, tones of voice, words of love. The actor playing the victim's husband says "I'm not saying that I understand Duncan McAllister, but I do understand how the character, as written, got to the point he did... he was a man torn apart by a moral and emotional dilemma". The real Duncan McAllister and his in-laws are only four years past an appalling personal disaster, but they have to put up with this sort of luvvie guff. What can they do?

And what can Anne Perry do, who has just been unmasked as the confused teenager who 40 years ago in New Zealand helped a



LIBBY PURVES

friend to kill her mother? The film of her crime, *Heavenly Creatures*, is entrancing of obscure aspects of themselves. That is the process that breathed life into Anna Karenina and Lady Bracknell, that gave us King Lear and *Double Indemnity*. Real fiction tells truths about humanity through the medium of inspired lies.

There never was such a person as Mr Darcy or such a place as Pemberley, but never mind, says the writer; there is now.

If real writers borrow, they have the decency to wait until their subjects are dead. Cleopatra is fair game. But ever since the advent of film, with its arrogant hunger, fiction has taken to snapping far too close on the heels of living fact. Biopics of the long-dead ("Gee, Mr Chopin—play that cute tune again!") were all right as long as they were ludicrous. The better the film, the greater the abuse of truth. Captain Bligh, urge historians, was not so bad a chap as Charles Laughton looked; the Master of the *Californian* did not ignore the *Titanic*'s SOS. But at least the characters are dead and past caring.

Then the film industry got bolder and lazier, and living people found themselves staring in amazed horror at their screen doppelgangers. Sometimes they jibbed: Gladys Aylward, the missionary, loudly complained of being played by Ingrid Bergman. Sometimes they took the money and smiled, accepting it as an extension of autobiography. But now the ravaging screen goes further.

It is only four years since Susan Christie, aged 22, killed her lover's wife, Penny McAllister. She is still in prison. But, on Monday, three of them will be on ITV in a "compelling" two-hour television drama by Lucy Gannon, based on tran-

sactional truthfulness" of the sexual relationship between the girls.

But Ms Perry says there was no such thing. Her memory is different and less box-office: a matter of sexual ignorance, warped sense of duty, deluded fears that her friend was dying, ill-health and bad judgment. She hates giving anything which sounds like an excuse, because she has lived through remorse most of its cannot imagine. But what is she to do, when her own young self is vividly imagined by total strangers, their version accepted by brass critics? What could anyone involved do about *Scandal*, or the Beirut hostages about the television version of their captivity?

Even the most affectionate fictionalisations are oddly cruel. *Shadowlands* is a brilliant piece, but its small dishonesties make survivors of that circle flinch. There was, for instance, no vulnerable small boy to face the grief of Joy's death with C.S. Lewis in an affecting wardrobe scene. There were two big teenagers and a different relationship, more awkward and far less amenable to pathos. But instead of storing up the notion of the little boy and the widower for some future fictional work of his own, the author twisted it to fit his scheme of things.

It worked. But that flick of the wrist, that facile writing-out of two real people, makes you shiver if you think about it for too long. As if someone were to tap-dance, elegantly, on your grave.

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The Oscar Wilde memorial is long overdue, says the great-grandson of the man who helped to imprison Wilde

# 'People are only interested in what one's great-uncle got up to a century ago'

It was a most moving ceremony this week, when a roundel in the east window of Poets' Corner at Westminster Abbey was dedicated to Oscar Wilde. Dame Judi Dench and Michael Denison gave us the handbag scene from *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Mr Denison engagingly raising an eyebrow when he gave Lady Bracknell his age as "29". Seamus Heaney gave a bold address. Sir John Gielgud read from the final part of *De Profundis*, the letter written from Reading Gaol to Lord Alfred Douglas, known as Bosie.

Wilde's grandson, Merin Holland, unveiled the memorial, and there was a murmur of appreciation in a crowded Abbey when it was announced by the Dean that Bosie's great-nephew, the 12th Marquess of Queensberry, was present as well.

The amiable 12th Marquess, ceramic designer, wears denim and lives in a terrace house in Notting Hill, west London, from where he rides on a 750cc Kawasaki motorbike every morning to his mews studio in Lancaster Gate.

For 20 years David Queensberry was professor of ceramics at the Royal College of Art. He left in the year of Jocelyn Stevens' arrival there, not because of that (he thinks Stevens did a good job) but because "you shouldn't soldier on in these jobs over 50". We sit under a frieze by Eduardo Paolozzi, whom Queensberry counts as his best friend. Someone had pinned on his desk a picture of Oscar at his most flamboyant and a quotation from *Lady Windermere's Fan*: "We are all in the gutter, but some of us are looking at the stars."

Many people this week had asked him whether his attendance was a final burying of the hatchet 100 years after his great-grandfather, the ninth Marquess, hounded Wilde and so brought about the imprisonment that destroyed him. But there was no hatchet to bury, he protests. "My great-grandfather was a pretty poisonous person, disliked intensely by his sons — Bosie couldn't stand him and nor could my grandfather, Percy — and by his wife."

In the first trial, in which Wilde sued Queensberry for criminal libel, the Queensberry family in fact supported Wilde. The old Marquess never forgave his sons, particularly Percy, for taking Wilde's side. Percy even managed to round up £1,250 towards Wilde's bail of £5,000, in sheer defiance of

his father, and tried to get Wilde to flee the country rather than risk imprisonment, though he would have been ruined if Wilde had resorted to jumping bail.

"In fact my great-grandfather and my grandfather met in the street soon after the trial and had a fistfight," says David Queensberry, "and were charged with affray and bound over to keep the peace — that shows how little respect my grandfather had for his father." (Poor Percy, when he went to his father's deathbed, he was spat upon by the expiring Marquess.) "And later, my mother became a great friend of Wilde's son, Vyvyan Holland."

"Of course, any respectable Victorian person would have found what Wilde was up to be morally unacceptable."

Very few people came out of the closet then, any more than Wilde did. At the libel hearing, called upon to explain his relationship with Bosie, Wilde said: "It is that deep, spiritual affection that is as pure as it is perfect... it is beautiful, it is fine, it is the noblest form of affection."

"Which was a load of cobblers," says the Marquess. "You can't confuse the twitch of a few abdominal nerves — I think that's a quote from MacNeice — with great poetry."

He remembers great-uncle Bosie coming to his parents' house when he was small. His father financially supported Bosie, who was still betting daily on the horses to the day he died. "But I only knew him when he was old and frail. I think he was an awful fellow, Bosie, extremely right-wing, anti-Semitic; there was nothing very good to be said about him. He got involved in a lot of litigation; he went to prison for libelling Winston Churchill, and wrote a sonnet to Winston to apologise. But I do think he was, in a minor way, quite a good poet."

Queensberry believes the Wilde window in the Abbey is an important symbolic event, marking acceptance of homosexuality. "The Church of England made it clear that he was being honoured for his literary achievements, not to atone for his suffering in prison. But I

think everyone present assumed it was a gesture, a way of saying that being gay is something we understand and tolerate as totally unimportant. I think a lot of people sitting there thought it was wonderful because he suffered and was destroyed because of something we no longer regard as illegal."

The present Marquess has impeccable credentials in this respect: he made his maiden speech in the House of Lords in support of Booby, Earl of Arran, who carried the Bill for homosexual law reform through the Lords. I always had very strong feelings about gay rights and have always been on the side of a totally liberal approach. One of my closest friends since the 1930s is the writer Dickie Chopping, a card-carrying gay who has

been loving and rowing with his partner Dennis for about 60 years. And I think perhaps I was a good person to speak in the Lords, since I have eight children. (The children of his two marriages are Sholto, Ambrose, Emma, Victoria, Alice, Milo, Kate and Torquil, some of whom are creative artists, two of them despite being hampered by prams in the hall, Alice Douglas, an actress, is the one most concerned with the Wilde story; she works at putting on plays in prisons.)

"Not that I might not still have been a lurking gay; I know of a father of six who recently announced, in his late sixties, that he is gay." When he laughs Queensberry looks exactly like the BBC's erstwhile political editor John Cole.

"We who live in London, in the worlds of design and journalism and the theatre and so on, don't realise that the acceptance of being gay is not quite as widespread as we believe. You are not going to find much intolerance in the antiques trade, but if you're an engineer in the provinces, or in the City, it may not be in your interest to come out of the closet."

This week's celebrations in the Abbey took place 100 years to the day since the chilly St Valentine's night when *The Importance of Being Earnest* was first performed. Some of the distinguished Abbey

guests — who included the Longfords, the Pinters, Donald Sinden, Peter Ackroyd, Michael Foot, Richard Ingrams — went on to the Café Royal for champagne, hosted by Merin Holland. Holland is now 50, and a writer himself; he is wine correspondent of *The Oldie*, but spends much of his time being Oscar Wilde's grandson: he edited the complete works, and is involved in a forthcoming BBC programme for the centenary of the Wilde trial.

The legacies of the Queensberrys persist in two famous quotations: the ninth Marquess's mis-spelled card left at Wilde's club "Oscar Wilde, posing as somdomite" and Bosie's immortal lines from his poem *Two Loves*: "I am the Love that lives in shame, I am the Love that dare not speak its name."

David Queensberry's own legacy is visible in all our homes: in any number of well-designed mass-market household goods from Royal Doulton and Rosenthal dinner services to Ideal Standard washbasins. Everything in his studio, from tables to teapots, is a Queensberry Hunt design, as celebrated two years ago in a V&A exhibition. Behind his desk he displays a variety of teapots and jugs that combine beauty and utility, which does not necessarily mean simplicity, or a lack of sensitive detail. This, he says, handing me a beautiful pale-yellow 19th-century milk-jug, "looks elaborate, but is in fact ergonomically perfect: see how exactly it suits the pouring hand."

Where design differs from architecture, he said, waving an arm, "is that while an architect can put up a building acknowledged to be a masterpiece but which nobody likes working in, our products have to be a pleasure to use, or they wouldn't sell."

It is a little irritating for Queensberry to be burdened with a name that everyone associates either with boxing — as he says, in no other sport do people remember the name of the person who formulated the rules — or with Wilde. "One can have a lifetime in serious design, responsible for a business worth £130 million a year, and the only thing that interests people is what one's great-uncle got up to in the 19th century."

On the other hand, as dear Oscar said in *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, there is only one thing in the world worse than being talked about, and that is not being talked about.

## THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



pered by prams in the hall, Alice Douglas, an actress, is the one most concerned with the Wilde story; she works at putting on plays in prisons.)

"Not that I might not still have been a lurking gay; I know of a father of six who recently announced, in his late sixties, that he is gay." When he laughs Queensberry looks exactly like the BBC's erstwhile political editor John Cole.

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David Queensberry: his own legacy is any number of well-designed mass-market household goods

Helena Drysdale is married to the owner of an art gallery, has a two-year-old daughter and lives in genteel chaos in a middle-class enclave of south London, besieged by tower blocks and crack dealers. Gheorghe Cupar was a Romanian peasant, who became an Orthodox priest and poet, and died, in appalling conditions, in a mental hospital during the Ceausescu regime.

Fifteen years ago, this unlikely couple met and fell in love, when Helena, then a 19-year-old Cambridge undergraduate, was touring Romania with two friends. They camped in the woods, lived off powdered milk and baked beans, and, until they met Gheorghe, just expelled from his monastery, were largely ignorant of the political situation. So were most people in the West: the year before, Ceausescu had been awarded the Order of the Bath at Buckingham Palace.

Gheorghe (the "g's" are hard) was the first Romanian to hint at the horrors of the system, yet he defied the law that all conversations with a foreigner must be reported and joined them on their

Julia Llewellyn Smith on one woman's search for the truth about a victim of Romanian oppression

## Who killed Gheorghe Cupar?



Helena Drysdale: "There's definitely been a cover-up"

travels. He was completely different to anyone Helena had met before, which was why she fell in love. "Oh yes," she says enthusiastically. "He was wonderful looking and such a romantic character: so well read and intense. He had been a shepherd as a boy, playing his flute on the hills, but he taught himself perfect English."

But these exotic qualities were precisely why the relationship had no future. Helena knew this, but when she returned to Cambridge at the end of the summer she indulged in a year-long, passionate correspondence. "I don't think I ever had fantasies that we would be together. I was just in love at that moment, having an exciting romance."

For Gheorghe, however, things were more serious. His letters started to sound haunted — he spoke of trouble with the police, of a spell in a TB hospital, not only for "medical reasons". She dismissed it as melodrama. Occasionally, he begged Helena to marry him and help him escape. But that

summer Helena went to Turkey. On her return, Gheorghe wrote asking her never to write again — he had joined the police.

Helena left Cambridge, became an art critic for an

obscure journal, got married to Richard, who owns an art gallery, and wrote two books about her travels in Tibet and China, and in Madagascar. She never heard from Gheorghe again.

She never forgot him, though, and ten years later, as scenes of the revolution flickered on her television screen, she decided to trace him. In March 1991, Helena returned alone to Romania and began a journey which led her into a maze of paranoia, where everybody's stories were riddled with inconsistencies. "I began totally

trusting, just assuming that everyone was so friendly and interesting, and then there would be a remark that would make the ground shift under my feet," she says. "After all, in Ceausescu's day one in three people was informing to the secret police, the Securitate."

Before Helena reached Gheorghe's village, in an obscure corner of Moldavia, she learned that he had died of "schizophrenia". His family confirmed this, but had never

seen the body, or a death or autopsy certificate. The family welcomed Helena excitedly, but by then she had become so wary that she began to suspect even Gheorghe's mother of being implicated in her son's death. "I adored her, but friends later said 'Of course his family committed him to that place', or 'She's lying, she just wants you to give her presents'." She grins regretfully. "I'll never really know, she was probably given some bribe to have her son taken away. He was living at home, unable to work and refusing to conform, and you couldn't do that in Romania."

She never did find out what happened to Gheorghe, despite travelling on to Costina, the mental hospital where he died — which, the locals described as "worse than Auschwitz". There she witnessed horrific scenes of filth and depravity among the inmates, most of whom were not "mad" at all. They had just refused to run with the pack.

"Maybe the system drove him mad," Helena says. "But he organised a hunger strike and one time he escaped, so he couldn't have been totally insane. But why all the cover-up about his death? Why didn't they just shoot him?"

But then everyone tells me the Romanian system is much more subtle than that, it's all about undermining confidence, creating insecurity. She has captured this atmosphere in *Looking for Gheorghe*, the story of her ultimately fruitless attempt to find out how her friend died. He may have been killed or killed himself, he may have been given the wrong drugs for his "schizophrenia", he may have died as the result of

malnourishment, being immersed all night in freezing water for hours or wrapped in wet sheets.

It is disappointing enough for the reader that the story has no neat resolution, but for Helena, Gheorghe's fate will always remain an obsession. "I would love to go on," she says. "But some parts say that's as far as I could ever get. There's definitely a cover up."

I suggest a few bribes might supply some answers. "Yes, if I had the money. But there's still no guarantee people would tell the truth. And somehow it seems such an un-English thing to do." Besides, she has other things to think about: she is three months pregnant. She and her husband are thinking about travelling around Europe in a camper van — but children will make a difference. "I call my daughter my ball and chain," she sighs.

She still feels guilty that she did not do more for Gheorghe,

that she did not marry him or take his pleas for rescue seriously. She is not sure whether to send his family a copy of the book, in case they are compromised. What she can comfort herself with, however, is the fact that the Securitate persecuted Gheorghe, and thousands like him, in the belief that he was a nobody.

"Gheorghe would have been a perfect victim. He was apparently without anyone else in the world. He was unlikely to ignite international outrage. They couldn't have known that I would come along and start to dig."

● *Looking for Gheorghe* by Helena Drysdale is published by Sinclair Stevenson, price £16.99.

## Barclays Bank PLC

The following changes in lending interest rates are effective from start of business on 17th February 1995.

	New Rate	Old Rate
Barclays Executive Loan	13.5% p.a.	12.5% p.a.
Barclays Executive Premium Loan	12.75% p.a.	11.75% p.a.



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# Ireland's toughest compromise

Bruce Anderson says the talks will now need a new flexibility

The current round of Northern Ireland negotiations is perilously close to collapse. The Government's framework document, shortly to be published and virtually unchanged since the *Times* leak, is unacceptable to the Unionist party. Rightly so. The Unionists are on the verge of refusing to take part in further talks. If that happens, the entire process might disintegrate into a chaos of recrimination, imperilling both the ceasefire and the Government's survival.

It is so unfortunate, and so unnecessary. The discussions were inevitably difficult. Two conflicting claims to sovereignty have to be reconciled while assuaging generations of communal antagonism. The drafters of the document have had to walk a tightrope over minefields. Each sentence is an exercise in verbal bomb-disposal — and it has almost worked. On nearly every question there is the hope of agreement, albeit through clenched teeth. But the threat of breakdown emerges from a central issue: the nature of the new cross-border institutions.

The Unionists were prepared to accept these, but they wanted them to come under the control of the new Northern Ireland Assembly. This provoked objections from the Nationalists. Dublin and the SDLP pointed out that any such assembly would have an in-built Unionist majority: what if it simply refused to participate in the cross-border arrangements? That is a genuine anxiety, which requires an answer. In the Ulster context, an agreement cannot be based on good faith alone.

Sir Patrick Mayhew and his deputy, Michael Ancram, had to calm the Nationalists' fears: but they have gone too far. Sir Patrick is a Unionist, but of Southern Irish stock. Lord Ancram is also a Unionist: a Scottish one. The Prime Minister is equally strong in his Unionism: but he is not Ulster Unionist (or it may be that none of them understands Ulster Unionism as well as they think they do). Perhaps because of the very strength of their own Unionist convictions, they have been too willing to override the Ulstermen's anxieties and to dismiss their fears.

Instead of allowing the new cross-border mechanisms to evolve, there would be an enforced partnership at a high level. The Unionists fear that this would enable the Dublin Government and its allies to put London under constant pressure to override the majority's wishes. The Northern Ireland Office rejects that interpretation, but there is much in the small print to give it credence. The Unionists too demand assurances more substantial than mere good faith.

We are in an impasse. To break it, all three sides would have to yield ground. The British Government must restrain its natural impulse to blame the Unionists for their intransigence and to appeal direct to the people of Northern Ireland in a referendum. There would

be no hope of constructing a durable future for Ulster in the teeth of Unionist opposition, and anyway, John Major has given his word that the Unionist party will have a *de facto* veto on the negotiations. So the British will have to find a more acceptable formula.

In the meantime, the Unionists should avoid retreating to the bunker. There is a compromise between surrender and breaking off talks. The Unionists need to make their case in a calm and dignified manner, and they have plenty of friends on the mainland to help them. In the last few months, Jim Molyneux has shown courage and statesmanship. He is now under pressure as never before from his own constituency, but he is a big enough man to tell his own people that he was right to take risks in pursuit of peace. He should also insist that if the Unionists refuse to talk they will be playing their enemy's game.

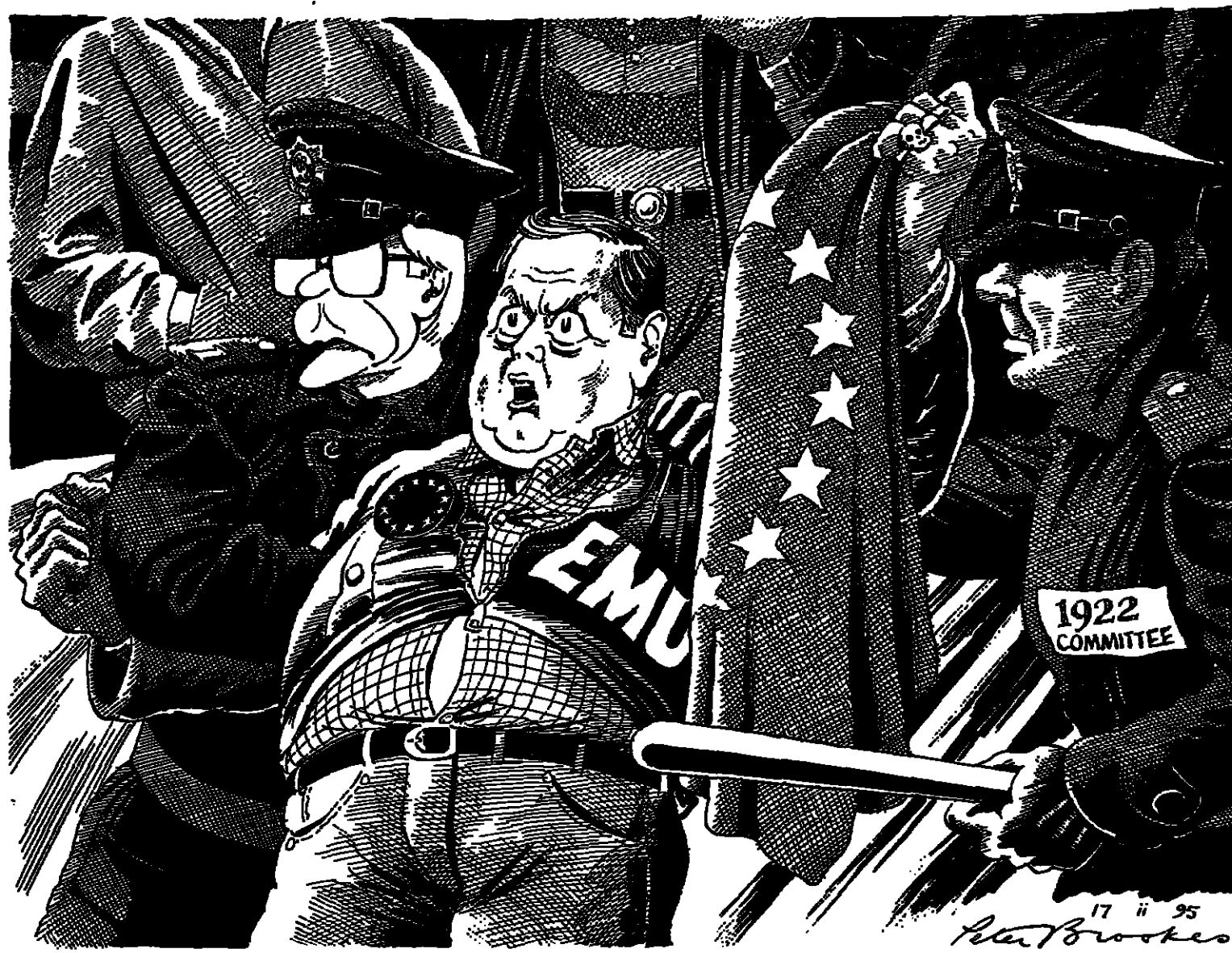
But if the process is to survive, the biggest, most generous concessions will have to come from Dublin. The Dublin Government has agreed to renounce its territorial claim and accept that Irish unity can come only by consent: it ought now to think through the implications of all that. Consent does not mean endless badgering on the assumption that Unionism is fundamentally illegitimate and that the Unionists ought to get on with recognising their all-Ireland destiny. Consent

Consent means persuasion — not coercion

means persuasion: it means giving Unionists time and space to explore the possibilities of new relationships on the island of Ireland, without any coercion. Above all, consent means the right to withdraw consent, possibly for ever.

Some in Dublin understand all this. They recognise that the Anglo-Irish agreement failed because it was negotiated behind the Unionists' backs and imposed over their heads: they were determined not to make the same mistake again. But will their determination hold? It would not be easy for a Dublin Government with a small majority and under pressure from Fianna Fail in opposition to inform its electorate that a framework acceptable to the Brits will have to be recast because those black Prods in the North will not wear it. But unless Dublin acknowledges that it has been too successful for Ireland's good in these negotiations and that it must now give back some ground that should never have been conceded, there is little hope for the talks.

The odds were always against a settlement in Ulster. But from the Downing Street declaration onwards, the various parties have come desperately close to success — perhaps 90 per cent of the way. But that last 10 per cent will be harder than all the rest. All the parties are now suffering from negotiation fatigue; they all feel that they have done their utmost. But unless they combine to find new flexibility and a fresh momentum, their efforts will fail.



## Death for graffiti

Is Islam so fragile a religion that it must kill children for imaginary slurs?

There is much to be said about a headline reading "Boy faces death for graffiti slur on the Prophet", and I shall say it in due course, but first I must ask a question on which I have frequently pondered, without getting any kind of an answer from those who, in their special positions, might be thought to know and reveal. Consider: the Muslim religion is, at its best, a noble and beautiful one. Then why can it not, when traduced, behave like all other religions: why can it not shrug off what is thought to be a stain on the Prophet? The Christians, the Jews, the Buddhists — these either shake their heads in wonder or sorrow or irritation at such insults, and get on with their devotions, very sensibly. So why should the Muslim faith apparently be so slender that it cannot abide a slur on its beliefs?

Mind, I am not saying that the boy in the headline was throwing dirt or doubt upon the Muslim religion. But suppose he was fouling a mosque, say: there are, to hand, rebukes of every kind and at all levels of severity, from a good smacking to a visit to a stern magistrate: why the death penalty? After all, any Pakistani has only to look around to see things which shame both Pakistan and its religion. What of the roughly 30,000 murders committed in Algeria and the Sudan in the name of the Prophet?

And as I write, I learn that the director of the Algerian National Theatre, Azeddine Medjoubi, has been murdered by these savages, though he had nothing to do with them, pro or con. But I do not get an answer to my question. (There is, of course, an issue of plain fear: no one could be called a coward just for keeping silent, when killers are on the prowl.)

But now let us look at that remarkable headline about Salamat Masih: "Boy faces death for graffiti slur on the Prophet". Strictly, the headlines should have read "Boy and man with same surname face death for graffiti slur on the Prophet", because the boy's companion is also charged. And indeed, the headline might have been even longer, because yet another of these people with the same name (Masih) was indicted, but he was helpfully murdered by the fanatics. Mind you, in any sane jurisdiction, no such case would be entertained, for the very good reason that the boy who was supposed to have scribbled blasphemous words on walls was illiterate. But fanatics

rarely, if ever, think about logic.

I must pause here, to acknowledge the astounding courage of the boy's lawyer, Asma Jehangir, who, not content with the struggle in the law, is proud to be the head of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan. And then I learn that several leading Muslim lawyers have offered to defend the two, and an appeal has now been lodged in the High Court.

The truth, of course, in this madness, is that the fanatics will not be satisfied until every non-Muslim in Pakistan is driven out or murdered. There are some figures among the leaders of the country, but very few are willing to speak, for the obvious reason that their lives would then be in danger.

Yet 97 per cent of the people of Pakistan already are Muslims. The 3 per cent hold various faiths, and you might think that such proportions mean that the minority would be left to pray to whom they wish, and for a time that was the case. Indeed, when the State of Pakistan was being established, the then national leader, Mohammad Ali Jinnah, spoke these remarkable words:

You are free to go to your temples, you are free to go to your mosques or any other place of worship in this state of Pakistan. You may belong to any religion or caste or creed — that has nothing to do with the business of State.

Alas, Jinnah's wisdom did not last. Pakistan was made a Muslim state in 1956. Even then, fanaticism had not taken hold: the 1956 constitution guaranteed religious freedom to other sects. But gradually the freedom was whittled away, and when Zia-ul-Haq became President, the nation slid away from its promise. The blasphemy laws were, and are, terrifying for anyone falling foul of them, however gently. Here are a few transgressions which can bring the death sentence or life imprisonment:

Defiling a place of worship; acts insulting religion or religious beliefs (in practice, this means only the Muslim religion); insults against Islam by imputation or innuendo;

defiling the Koran; derogatory remarks in respect of the Holy Prophet... Furthermore, blasphemy, in Pakistan, comes under what is called a "cognisable" offence, which means that the police can automatically arrest and imprison anyone who has been accused of it.

Now where does the Prime Minister, Benazir Bhutto, fit into all this? She is being careful not to do anything with her power, particularly since she said that she was saddened, unhappy and shocked about the death sentence, and found that the clerics had immediately filed contempt of court charges for saying even that. But in general, again and again, she has proclaimed a lessening of the strict Sharia law, and then ducked her promise.

Nor should we blame her too much: she understands that she walks an Islamic tightrope, and she would have to be very forgetful to make a bad slip and be threatened by the fanatics, for she has herself spent time in prison. It was no rhetoric when she said: "I wear the scars on my soul of the abuse of basic human rights. Thus, I view opposition through the eyes of the victim."

Yes, but very recently there was a conference in Vienna which discussed international human rights. Pakistan sent delegates, though not before they had got together more than 20 Islamic states — a massive weight in the scales — and it was thought that Pakistan, in such an assembly, would announce a new and generous attitude. No such announcement was made, and when David Littman, one of the leading figures in the International Fellowship of Reconciliation, asked the Pakistani delegation point-blank whether a man or woman should be put to death for blasphemy against Islam, the Pakistanis refused to answer. And the Prime Minister has said point-blank that she will not repeal the blasphemy laws; the farthest she will go is to seek support from political parties to amend the

legislation. They won't, of course, if only because when, last year, the Minister for Law proposed minor amendments to the blasphemy legislation, the fanatics put a £25,000 price on his head and the Prime Minister quietly "forgot" the entire idea.

Which brings me back to Salamat Masih, the 14-year-old boy who was supposed to write blasphemous statements but could not write a word. The court authorities taught him just as much as he needed to sign his name, and in doing so he might have written his death-warrant. His co-defendant, Rehmat Masih, is also under threat of execution. (He was a relatively wealthy farmer, whose property has now been confiscated, and all the 14 members of the family are living in a two-bed house, afraid to return to the village, lest they be killed as well.) When the actual executions — mere killings, in brutal truth — will be carried out we do not know: if the sentences are commuted, they will almost certainly be commuted to life imprisonment.

I come back to where I started. What is there in the Muslim religion that makes those who hold to it apparently so afraid of rejection? I know of no other religion that fears to put itself into the challenge, and it is ironic that the religion which seems to be the most fragile is — in its fanatic side, at least — by far the most cruel, violent and mad.

But we must behave as though we are facing a rational and loving faith, if we are to join ourselves to the very many pleas for clemency in Pakistan. The boy couldn't write and didn't, but just suppose that he could and did; it would be a very unpleasant thing to do, no doubt, but young boys, perhaps high-spirited, often do unpleasant things without thinking.

Yet I do not know of any other culture which kills them.

I do not know whether the pleas for clemency that are now piling up throughout the world and being transmitted to Pakistan are loosening the bonds of cruelty, as I fervently hope, or perhaps instead — terrible thought — stiffening the Pakistanis' resolve. The leaders of that country must know that if it is the latter, there will be a revolution against Pakistan so deep, so long-lasting and so conclusive that the mere name of their country will hardly be heard without being accompanied by a spit. But if clemency holds the day, Pakistan's name will be entwined with a peal of bells.

Philip Howard



If the young watch sport rather than playing it, their aggression finds other outlets

Nothing like a football riot to excite the English and expand our vocabulary. We (secretly) love (other men's) violence, projecting onto it our own frustrations. One has to listen to only one shock-jock rant-in to hear the bottled rage that sometimes explodes in crowd hysteria.

Football may have become a sport run by fat foxes, played by rich lions, commented on by squeaking budgerigars, and watched by infuriated sheep which sometimes stampede and break up their stalls — but the rise of the animal rights rioters has reduced the sting of zoological metaphor. A few comparisons of England football fans to vermin are current, but "animal" has ceased to be a politically acceptable insult, when animals are perceived as victims not vicious.

"Thug" comes from the Sanskrit *sthaṅga*, a cheat, because the 19th-century gangs of Indian Thugs would pretend to make friends with their victims before murdering them. Popular etymology derives "hooligan" from an Irishman, Patrick Hoolihan, and his family who "enlivened" the drab monotony of Southwark in the 1890s. His headquarters was the Lamb and Flag. "It is certain that he lived in Irish Court, that he was employed as a chucker-out at various resorts in the neighbourhood. Moreover, he could do more than his share of tea-leaving. Finally, one day he had a difference with a constable and put his light out." The first printed reference is from the *Daily Telegraph* of 1898, when a man coincidentally called Lincker, "described as a Hooligan, set upon an inoffensive man".

However, the original football hooligans were English not Irish. (The Irish behave like gentlemen: at Lansdowne Road for soccer/rugby.) According to legend, the Anglo-Saxons defeated a Viking raiding party at Kingston-upon-Thames in the 8th century, and celebrated their victory by playing a grudge match with the Viking chief's head. That was the last full international to be staged at the Kingston ground, where modern teams are like an old bra: no cups and precious little support. But from that primitive football riot onwards, ineffectual legislation is recorded against football hooligans. In 1314, Edward II banned football: "Forasmuch as there is great noise in the city caused by hustling over large balls, from which many evils may arise, which God forbid, we command and forbid, on behalf of the King, on pain of imprisonment, such game to be used in the city in future."

Frequent statutes banning football followed the English game down the centuries, partly because of its hooligan violence, and partly because it distracted young men from sports such as archery, which were useful for military service. In 1514, *The Bole of the Governor*, the first treatise on education in English, described football as "nothing but beastly furie and extreme violence". Philip Stubbes, the Norman Tebbit of the day, declared in his populist column *The Anatomie of Abuses*, that football encouraged "fighting, brawling, contention, quarrelling, murder, homicide and great effusion of blood, as experience daily teacheth". The Puritans banned the game, though Oliver Cromwell played centre half as an undergraduate at Sidney Sussex.

Hooligans and football go together like testosterone and trouble. Young men need violent exercise as players not spectators, otherwise some of them will make their own anti-social violence. When the ancient world turned to spectator sport in the hippodrome instead of exhausting participatory sport in the gymnasium, trouble followed. In a riot at the races in Constantinople, supporters of the greens massacred 3,000 of their blue adversaries because of sporting violence, alcohol, betting, excitement and dislike of losing. The riots spread and the foundations of the imperial government were shaken. When the Emperor Justinian, who had supported the blue faction, died, his successor tried to restore peace to the terraces with the announcement: "Ye blues, Justinian is no more! Ye greens, he is still alive!" But even that menacing headline could not stop the hooligans.

## Flight of fancy

HOW HEARTENING to see that Air Chief Marshal Sir Sandy Wilson, who was forced to take early retirement after the extravagant renovation of his official residence, has a project to occupy himself. He is going to renovate his home in Stow-on-the-Wold.

A planning application has been submitted to Cotswold District Council for up to £100,000-worth of work on his Georgian Grade II listed house. It may be a snip when set against the £387,000 he spent overhauling his official Ministry of Defence home in Gloucestershire (£33,000 went on curtains alone), but the council is taking an interest.

A planning officer is to visit the house today. "A conservation architect is going to have a look as well," says a council spokeswoman. "We will just be interested to see if any of the new features overlook neighbouring properties, but it looks as though everything will fit with the original building."

Sir Sandy hopes to bash holes in the walls to install new arch windows, knock down partition walls and create a new bathroom and dressing room. A canopy of sorts will be erected over the main door-

way. His office had no comment yesterday, but Sir Sandy is expected to move back into the house, which is currently rented, when he leaves the RAF in April.

### Brace up

A LESSON to those MPs who still believe that they are at their peak of physical fitness: Sir James Spicer, chairman and founder of the Commons gym, is incapacitated af-



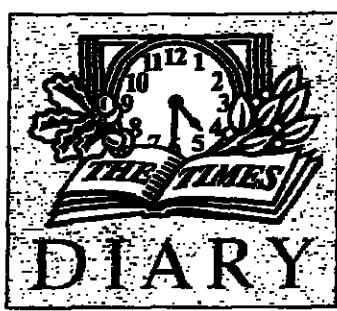
ter an impulsive jump off a lift wall. Spicer has been rigged up to a metal frame in recent weeks with his arm suspended vertically on a platform; his neck is in a brace.

"Just a small error of judgment," he tells me, still confident that he knows his limitations. "I'm an excellent sportsman. I'm still finding it difficult to move, but next week I'll be back in training for the Lords versus Commons swimming match this summer. I've competed for fifteen years, and I refuse to miss it even if I have to doggy paddle."

Spectators peppered by the rogue drives of George Bush and Gerald Ford when they played golf with President Clinton on Wednesday should have heeded Bob Hope, who made up the foursome. As he once said: "We have 51 golf courses in Palm Springs, but Gerald never decides which course to play until after his first tee shot."

### All-too briefs

COMPLAINTS have been voiced by members of the Nolan committee, sitting to investigate standards in public life after allegations that our elected representatives accept cash to ask questions in Parliament. They say they are not getting their briefing papers in sufficient



time to prepare for a thorough interrogation of witnesses.

"The trouble is that they receive the papers just 12 hours before they have to interview the witnesses," says a source. "They don't have time to read them." Perhaps the penny-pinching Civil Service might care to lash out on this occasion. Though it may be anathema to cost-cutting mandarins, committee members suggest that rather than sending papers by post, it might consider motorbike couriers.

### Quick change

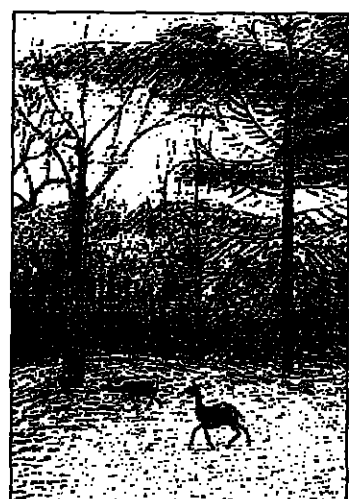
DOUGLAS HURD, the Foreign Secretary, has a new English tweed coat to replace his trademark Loden coat. I understand that his wife, Judy, has also enjoyed a wardrobe overhaul. She was seen the other day leav-

ing the elegant portals of Caroline Charles's shop in Bond Street bearing suits from the new collection. Caroline Charles's quintessentially English designs are favoured by the Princess of Wales. "They are subtle, well-cut and this season's colours are lilac, yellow and beige," explains my man on the catwalk. "She uses fabrics like chiffon and silk herringbone." Word is that Judy Hurd found the "grand occasion dress" for the Queen's forthcoming visit to South Africa.

### Late show

SIR ALEC GUINNESS was suffering first-night nerves yesterday. Not that he had the star turn: it was his wife of 57 years who stole the show. The event was an exhibition of paintings at Knightsbridge's Crane Calman gallery, and Merula Salaman (a.k.a. Lady Guinness) was one of those showing.

"I started painting when I was about three, and I've continued ever since," she explained, adding that her husband occasionally followed in her brushstrokes. Andras Calman, who put on the show (which includes works by others unknown as artists, including the Earl of Antrim) believes that Salaman's art has appeal. "We've already sold a painting to



Salaman's Deer at Sunset

an anonymous admirer. But she's very modest. When she first came in with her portfolio, she was as shy as a schoolgirl."

So many have fallen victim to flu at the Royal Opera House recently that before the performance of Der Rosenkavalier on Wednesday, a member of staff walked on stage to announce they were in the unusual position of having a complete and healthy cast.

P.H.S





**Business letters, page 27**







## OBITUARIES

## NORBERT ROWE

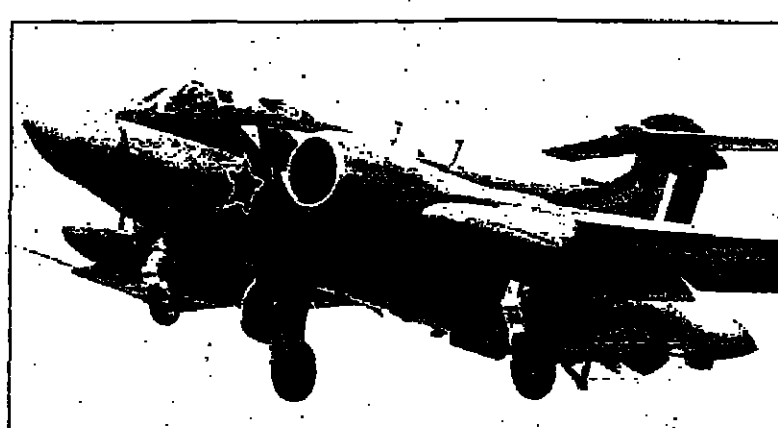
Norbert Edward Rowe, CBE, wartime Director of Technical Development at the Ministry of Aircraft Production and a former director of Hawker Siddeley Aviation, died on February 5 aged 96. He was born on June 18, 1898.

"NERO" to a wide circle of colleagues in the world of British aviation. N. E. Rowe was one of the most distinguished (and long-lived) of that band of British aeronautical scientists who came out of the Royal Aircraft Establishment in its most prolific years. Beginning his working life in the days of biplanes after the First World War, he went on to be involved in the development of helicopters, organised high altitude flight research and was behind the success of the Buccaneer strike aircraft, first flown in 1958 and still in active service with the RAF during the Gulf War of 1991.

Born in Plymouth, Norbert Edward Rowe was the only son of Harold and Jane Rowe. In 1913, at the age of 15, he began a six-year apprenticeship at the naval dockyard, Devonport, starting at the workbench while receiving an intensive technical education through day release and evening classes at Upper Dockyard School. This apprenticeship was interrupted in the summer of 1918 when he went to France as a fitter/gunner with the Royal Field Artillery.

Demobilised in 1919, he continued his studies at the City and Guilds (Engineering) College, taking a first-class London University degree in engineering in 1924.

Joining the Royal Aircraft Establishment as a test assistant he was, in 1926, posted to the Air Ministry's Technical Flying Establishment at Marham Heath. There he gained an intimate practical knowledge of the qualities — and the foibles — of the full range of new British, and some foreign, aircraft of those pre-war years. He became Marham Heath's Chief Technical Officer in 1937 and then Assistant Technical Director at the headquarters of the Air Ministry in 1938.



Rowe and a Buccaneer taking off with rocket assistance

level. The result was the immensely robust Buccaneer bomber, built, as its pilots acknowledged, like a battleship to withstand the buffeting of high subsonic speeds "on the deck". It was also designed to be able to pull up steeply to 18,000 feet, lob a tactical nuclear bomb at a distant target and then dive hair-raisingly to earth and pursue a terrain-hugging course back to base.

This highly successful design went into service with the Royal Navy in the 1960s and, when the Navy lost its fleet aircraft carriers, continued in service with the RAF. It also flew with the South African Air Force and a number were supplied to the US Coastguard. The Buccaneer was in action as recently as 1991 when it was used for laser designation of targets during the Gulf War.

Rowe became a director of Hawker Siddeley Aviation (of which Blackburn had become a part) in 1961.

At that juncture, trouble between the board of De Havilland Aircraft of Canada and its engineers, who after the death of their long-serving technical director refused to take the board's instructions, induced the company to ask Rowe to go to Canada to sort out the trouble. In the event Rowe found himself accepting the job himself and he became Vice-President, Engineer-

ing, of De Havilland Canada. At the company's Ontario headquarters for the next four years he directed a major design team.

He was involved with the continuing development of the DHC Beaver, a high-wing utility workhorse which had been in service with a number of the world's armies and air forces since the early 1930s. In 1964 the DHC design team began work on the Twin Otter, a short takeoff and landing (STOL) transport which likewise went on to see service worldwide. Among his team's other projects were research on a hydrofoil ship.

In 1966 Rowe retired to live in West Yorkshire with one of his two daughters. He had joined the Royal Aeronautical Society in 1937 and was president in 1955-56, being made an honorary fellow in 1962. He presented the Royal Aeronautical Society's annual N. E. Rowe Medal for contributions from graduates, students and technicians. He was president of the Helicopter Association of Great Britain 1959-60, of the Whitworth Society 1974-75 and an honorary fellow of the Canadian Aeronautics and Space Institute from 1965 until his death. Rowe was highly regarded by his colleagues.

Rowe married Cecilia Brown in 1929. She survives him together with their two sons and two daughters.

## NIGEL FINCH

Nigel Finch, television editor and film-maker, died of an AIDS-related illness on February 14 aged 45. He was born on August 1, 1949.

NIGEL FINCH was a film-maker of startling originality, and co-editor of BBC's *Arena* series. He moonlighted occasionally to the BBC drama department when the right subject came up, but always returned to *Arena*, running the programme as a double act with his longtime colleague and friend Anthony Wall.

His film essays on popular culture, *My Way*, about the extraordinary appeal of the Frank Sinatra record, produced in 1979, and *The Private Life of Lord Corinna*, an affectionate look at what was Britain's most popular car, made in 1982, have deservedly found a place in television history. They were often imitated but never equalled. In them Finch found his style: for sheer technical verve and wit he was unmatched.

By his own account he had had a faltering start in film-making. He had agreed to make a film about the singer-songwriter Lynsey de Paul, quite a star at the time. He was, he confessed, not well acquainted with Ms de Paul

nor her *oeuvre*. In error, he booked another songstress with a similar name — Lyn Paul, the lead singer of the New Seekers group, who seemed very happy indeed to be singled out for a biographical study. Finch, embarrassed to admit his error and not thinking it especially important, went ahead and made the film anyway.

It could be said, that the theme of mistaken identity emerged early in his career. He dived with relish into the ambiguous, the unexpected, the fraudulent. In *The Caravaggio Conspiracy* he turned a quest to uncover some fake paintings into a dazzling pastiche of the TV thriller.

Refused an interview by Graham Greene, he went ahead with a film based on Greene's own story of an impostor who "borrowed" his persona and past. Finch gathered up as many people called Graham Greene as he could find in the phone book and interviewed them all. Setting these encounters against biographical detail and extracts from the novels, he succeeded in turning what could have been a gimmick into a brilliant and disturbingly surreal portrayal of "Greenland". His final coup was to persuade Greene himself to speak the narration.



Born in Tenterden, Kent, Nigel Finch grew up, a member of a family of four, in Bromley. He was educated at Bromley Grammar School for Boys and Sussex University, where he read History of Art. He cut his teeth, professionally, at London Weekend Television, working for Humphrey Burton's *Aquarius* and *The Frost Report*. In the mid-

1970s he moved to the BBC where he remained, mainly in the Music and Arts department, for the rest of his career. Nigel Finch's encounters with visual artists were always inventive, sometimes serious, never solemn. He was no hagiographer. There had to be a real idea exploding out of every film. Sometimes the idea was about the filming process

itself, as in his study last year of the sculptor Louise Bourgeois. It was a funny and painful revelation of what is usually hidden behind the bland face of the arts biography. Bourgeois, seen in an increasing state of anxiety about Finch's portrait of her, finally — on camera — burst a piece of sculpture at the director.

Finch was deeply committed to the artists he filmed. They tended to be both mould-breaking and controversial. He doggedly defended the most homo-erotic images in his film on the photographer Robert Mapplethorpe to a BBC bureaucrat — wheeling and dealing in how much (if any) prapic flesh might be acceptable just after the 9pm "watershed" on BBC2. "But don't you see, that's what Mapplethorpe's all about?"

An original himself, Finch delighted in eccentricities, larger-than-life characters. He was on home territory with his *Chelsea Hotel*, a portrait of the New York haunt of artistic outsiders. He made a film about a pop-singing lawyer, hired to defend Ken Russell in a lawsuit brought against the film director by the founder of *Penthouse* magazine. You could not invent a more bizarre scenario. In 1993 he won the Prix Italia for *The Vampire*, an opera turned soap-opera, notable for its lashings of blood and sopranos removing their clothes while singing their arias.

Sometimes the subject could become a little lost within the style. But Finch could also turn his hand to a sensitive unsettling drama like *The Lost Language of Cranes*, the story of a family man tormented by his closet homosexuality.

His last project was his first for the big screen: *Stonewall*, a story set around the emergence of the gay rights movement in America. As shooting ended, his final illness overtook him and he had an editing suite installed at his home so that he could finish the film. Those who have seen it report it to be the finest work he had ever done.

## CHARLES GARDNER

Charles Gardner, CBE, Intelligence Officer, died in Nairobi on February 7 aged 79. He was born in Kaluz, Austria, on April 24, 1915.



CHARLES GARDNER, born Israel Gold, was the son of an Austrian Jewish parents and went to school at the Realschule in Vienna. He then went on to read medicine for three years at Vienna University. The family was compelled to leave Austria after the Anschluss in 1938. The parents went to Israel and the young Gold to the UK, where he found employment with a firm of gold and silversmiths in Birmingham.

In February 1940 he enlisted in the Pioneer Corps, transferring to the Special Operations Executive in 1941. After long periods of training he was commissioned in 1944 and dropped into Slovenia. After six months behind German lines, he returned to Italy where he served for the rest of the war, reaching the rank of major.

After the war the Army sent him to Austria, where he came into contact with the Secret Intelligence Service (MI6). His perfect knowledge of German and of the local Austrian scene, added to a distinct flair for intelligence work, made him a natural choice (he himself had by then decided to throw in his lot with Britain rather than the country of his birth, or Israel). He was naturalised as a British subject in October 1946; and his loyalty to his adopted country was total. In later years only a very close observer, or an old friend, could have guessed that he was other than British born and educated.

Nevertheless it was a number of years before Gardner was fully accepted as a career member of the Service. His family was in Israel: the

official view was that there could be a danger of divided loyalties. It was not until 1966 that he was finally incorporated into the Service on the same terms as his home-grown colleagues. This had its effect not merely on Gardner's career in the Service, but also on his attitude to it. In a very real sense, the Service had become his family — his own family being remote and foreign. But for many years he felt more like an adopted than a natural member of it. Hence came a certain touchiness and preoccupation with questions of prestige and status. He was not always an easy colleague and never one who could be taken for granted. But when he felt valued and appreciated he could be an entrancing companion, worldly-wise and with a wide variety of interests.

After leaving Vienna, he worked in Frankfurt and, in 1958, in the British Consulate-General in West Berlin. Between these posts, he spent two frustrating years as vice-consul in Seoul, his only posting in the Far East and not one which he much enjoyed.

After Berlin came a five-year stint at home where, among other jobs, he spent some time in the training department.

The remaining 15 years of his service were perhaps the most valuable and the most rewarding. In 1966-67 he spent a short period in Nairobi, which was followed in 1967-69 by two years in Nigeria passing on the fruits of what was by then many years of experience. In 1969 he moved back to Nairobi, at the request of the Kenyan Government, to work as adviser to the office of the Vice-President. In this post he remained for 12 years, as the result of repeated requests from the Kenyan Government to prolong his stay. It was not until 1980 that he finally retired at the age of 65. He had been appointed CBE in 1973.

He was implicitly and deeply trusted by the senior ministers and civil servants of Kenya, with all of whom he was in constant contact. His white face was not important. They knew that in Gardner they had a friend who would never knowingly act against their interests. Additionally, he took endless trouble in little things and small personal attentions. He had an almost feminine (possible Viennese) sensitivity towards African patterns of thought and behaviour. He did much to maintain relations between Kenya and the UK.

After his retirement he settled in Nairobi to a comfortable existence of bridge and the racetrack. The removal of a lung in 1980 did not cramp his style for long. But in 1988 he suffered a seriously incapacitating stroke which greatly restricted his movements and activities in his final years. But the affection which he had always been able to inspire guaranteed the attentions of a host of friends.

He never married but was always a vigorous admirer of the opposite sex.

## HELEN WALLIS

Helen Wallis, OBE, formerly Map Librarian of the British Library, died on February 7 aged 70. She was born in Barret, Hertfordshire, on August 17, 1924.

FOR twenty years Helen Wallis was the leading figure in map librarianship in this country and, arguably, internationally. She was undoubtedly the best known historian of cartography.

She joined the map room of the British Museum in 1951, having previously attended St Paul's Girls' School and read geography at St Hugh's College, Oxford. In 1967 she succeeded R.A. Skelton as superintendent of the map room. She was the first woman to hold the post, a situation that would be repeated throughout her professional life.

During her 19 years in the profession's premier post, Wallis gave a new direction to the national map library (as the map room had become in 1973 with the creation of the British Library) making it the centre of a global network.

Map collections are universal. In their coverage and Wallis saw the logical need for an institutional framework within which map custodians could operate nationally and internationally. She was the driving force behind the creation of three organisations, all of which flourish today: the Map Curators' Group of the British Cartographic Society (1966), the Geography and Map Libraries Section of the International Federation of Library Associations (1969) and the British Committee for Map Information and Catalogue Systems (1977). In 1985 the Library Association awarded her its highest professional distinction, an honorary fellowship.

Wallis's long-standing involvement in the Royal Geo-

graphical Society culminated in her appointment as an honorary vice-president in 1988. Likewise, her contribution to the British Cartographic Society was marked by her presidency (1972-74) and the award in 1988 of its gold medal, while the Society of Woman Geographers gave her its Distinguished Achievement Award in 1990.

Yet it was as an historian, particularly of maps, that most knew her. Two of her publications reflected the librarian's duty to make information accessible: *Carto-*

graphy (for the Hakluyt Society, 1965). A great deal of her own writing celebrated the British Library's cartographic holdings which were greatly strengthened by her acquisition in 1968 of the Royal United Services Institution's map collection, the largest map purchase in the museum's 140-year history.

The library also provided the source for her most celebrated publication, the facsimile of the *Boke of Idrography* by Jean Rotz (1542), which she edited as a Roxburghe Club volume for Viscount Eccles in 1981. The original was made for Henry VIII and it was appropriate that a copy of the Wallis edition should have been presented by the Queen to President Reagan. The Rotz atlas showed Wallis to be unafraid of restating the still controversial claim that the Portuguese discovered Australia in the 1520s. Her other long-held conviction, that the Vinland Map was a forgery, has proved to be less contentious.

Her retirement from the British Library in 1986 was marked in two ways, by her appointment as OBE and by a published bibliography totaling more than 250 entries — a testimony to her apparently boundless energy. Given her affinity with the United States, it was fitting that Davidson College, North Carolina, should have awarded her an honorary doctorate in 1985.

Last year, when she was Mitchell Scholar in Residence at the State Library of New South Wales, cancer was diagnosed. The courage she displayed over the final nine months of her life was extraordinary; her determination to press on with her work was an inspiration to her vast circle of friends and colleagues. Her concern for others and her sense of humour remained with her to the end.

She was unmarried.



## PERSONAL COLUMN

## OVERSEAS TRAVEL

CANADA, USA, Africa, India, Europe, etc. See page 21 for details.

## RENTALS

ASIAN EXECUTIVE based in London. 2 bed, 2 bath, 2 car. See page 21 for details.

## RENTALS

WITTED THIRTEEN. See page 21 for details.

## SERVICES

PLANNING PARTNERS. See page 21 for details.

## TICKETS FOR SALE

TICKETS WALES V ENGLAND. See page 21 for details.

## TICKETS FOR SALE

WALSLEY V ENGLAND. See page 21 for details.

## TUITION &amp; COURSES

GEORGE SHORTHAND. See page 21 for details.

## WANTED

ALL MAJOR ARTISTS. See page 21 for details.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

EX-SERVICES MENTAL WELFARE SOCIETY. See page 21 for details.

## WINTER SPORTS

GALLERIES. See page 21 for details.

## COMBAT STRESS

See page 21 for details.

## Old and Fit NOT Old and Sick

Help us make old and fit a fact of life. A donation now and a legacy later please.

## HUNTING.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT)

Owing to the erratic game of see-saw played by frost and thaw and storm and calm just lately, we have experienced a period of chequered sport with horse and hound: and February now has some leeway to make up if its reputation as "the foxhunter's month" is to be maintained. Already the unpleasant thought occurs that there are not many more weeks to run before the time arrives for the pink coat and top-boots to be put away, because we are now within a fortnight of the last full moon of the hunting season. Scent has been as fickle as the weather during the past few days, and not many runs of much merit have been enjoyed on those occasions when it was possible to hunt. The Quorn, however, had a capital run from Lord Aylesford's covert this week, which lasted more than two hours. Certainly scent was not at its best, but the hunt was always there to give them valuable assistance, and the pace was fast enough at times. They were eventually stopped when heading for Eaton Grange, far into the Belvoir country. The Essex and Suffolk, too, have scored a really excellent gallop with an afternoon fox found near Broadmeadow. Almost in a straight line

## ON THIS DAY

February 17 1906

Hunting, now confined to accounts of sabotage demonstrations, was a regular and often lengthy feature in The Times up to the outbreak of the Second World War

hounds ran to the White House at Wix, and then, still carrying a great head, on to Stour Wood and the Great Eastern Railway, a point of 5 1/2 miles having been made in quick time so far. Facing the open again, the fox afterwards took a wide sweep over some of the best of the Essex and Suffolk country, and, returning to Stour Wood, was rolled over at the end of a stirring gallop of an hour and 25 minutes. In which at least 13 miles were covered.

One of the most noteworthy runs of the month, however, took place last week when the Glendale (a small pack with which Mr. James C. Fenwick hunts a wild moorland

district of Northumberland) found a stout fox at Ford Moss at 11.15 a.m. and hunted him to the top of Cheviot, on the frozen ridges of which they lost him in the driving clouds of mist. Their huntsman, who had been compelled to follow on foot during the last two hours, came up to them where they had thrown up at 20 minutes to 4 o'clock, and in the course of this remarkable chase hounds had covered more than 20 miles, and the distance from find to finish was 13 miles as the crow flies. Then in Ireland, where hunting was not so seriously interfered with by the vagaries of the weather, the Tipperary have just had their run of the season. It began from a patch of gorse near Silverfort and took the lucky followers of Mr. Burke's sterling pack over one of the best lines of grass to be found in the whole of Tipperary, though the presence of other foxes in the furry stronghold of Bennetts-hill robbed hounds of their reward after a run of 13 miles in an hour and 20 minutes, a point of at least eight miles being accomplished. The hunting outlook in Ireland has improved, since Mr. Isaac Bell has reconsidered his decision to give up the Galway "Blazers" at the end of the present season, whilst there is every promise of other vacant Irish countries finding suitable masters without any difficulty...



هكذا من الأصل



Can your computer  
learn the art  
of plug-and-play?

John Mayall:  
61 and still  
bluesbreaking

Head man minds  
England rugby  
hopes at Cardiff

# THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 17 1995



Greenpeace campaigners protested at the launch of the public offer yesterday, claiming that the generators were among Europe's worst polluters



## Green protest greeted Clarke

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

KENNETH CLARKE, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, had to run the gauntlet of Greenpeace campaigners protesting about environmental pollution when he arrived at the final launch for the UK public offer of shares in National Power and PowerGen, the two electricity generators.

So far, 3.1 million people have registered with share shops to buy into the £4 billion issue, about 300,000 more than the equivalent number for the last big public share offer, the third sale of BT shares.

Mr Clarke, who arrived almost an hour late for the launch because a Cabinet meeting at which the Government split over Europe was discussed overran, announced that the public would get a 10p discount to the price at which both the shares are being sold to City institutions.

The two shares are being sold together in a package. The first payment by retail investors for each National Power share is 170p, while PowerGen is priced at 185p. The minimum package is 120

National Power shares and 80 in PowerGen. Mr Clarke has confirmed that investors will receive the final dividends forecast, and payable in July, on their part-paid shares. "We have left the retail shares distribution to the private sector, and we haven't been let down. The share shop has come of age," he added.

"This is likely to be one of the largest, if not the largest, share offers in the world this year," Mr Clarke added.

Of the shares being sold, at least 40 per cent will go to individuals applying in the UK public offer, but this proportion can be increased if demand is sufficiently strong to justify it. Mr Clarke said that the large number of potential investors registering by Tuesday's cut-off indicated public enthusiasm for shares.

Greenpeace claims that the two companies are among Europe's worst polluters. Cumulative environmental damage is equivalent to £16.80 per current share, according to the pressure group's calculations.

Tempus, page 26

## BUSINESS TODAY

### STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3051.1	(-23.8)
Yield	4.25%	
FT-SE All share	1508.39	(-3.97)
Nikkei	17780.59	(-210.41)
New York		
Dow Jones	3874.06	(-12.11)
S&P Composite	463.51	(-1.03)

### US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(0%)
Long Bond	100 1/2%	(100%)
Yield	7.58%	(7.58%)

### LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	6 1/4%	(6 1/4%)
Life long gilt	10 1/2%	(10 1/2%)
Future (Mar)		

### STERLING

New York		
\$	1.5768	(1.5810)
London		
\$	1.5785	(1.5801)
DM	2.3524	(2.3578)
FF	6.1810	(6.1830)
Sfr	1.9872	(1.9943)
Yen	153.81	(153.70)
£ Index	67.1	(67.0)

### DOLLAR

London		
DM	1.4922	(1.5095)
FF	5.1810	(5.2385)
Sfr	1.9872	(1.9943)
Yen	153.81	(153.70)
£ Index	67.1	(67.0)

### TOKYO CLOSE YEN

Tokyo close Yen	97.85	
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### NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Apr)	\$16.80	(\$16.75)
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### BOLE

London close	\$377.05	(\$378.15)
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\* denotes midday trading price

### Kleinwort slips

Kleinwort Benson, the City merchant bank that has been the subject of recent takeover speculation, bucked the recent trend among investment banks by limiting the fall in its 1994 profits to 5 per cent. Turbulent equity and bond markets saw the bank's dealing profits slump. Page 25, Tempus 26

### N&P bonuses

National & Provincial, Britain's eighth-largest building society, accompanied an 11 per cent advance in 1994 profits with plans to reward more than half of its three million customers for their loyalty with special bonuses when they buy N&P products. Page 28

## Protests over British Gas soar

By ROSS TIEMAN

COMPLAINTS about service from British Gas have reached record levels as the company reorganises so that the Government can open the gas market to competition.

Protests from customers rocketed to 5,246 during January, an increase of 172 per cent year on year, the Gas Consumers Council said. In the three months to January, complaints rose 94 per cent, to 10,960.

The January figure was the highest recorded by the consumer watchdog since the privatisation of British Gas in 1986. The previous monthly peak was 3,670, recorded in 1988.

Ian Powe, director of the council, was in no doubt that the reorganisation plans unleashed by Cedric Brown, British Gas's chief executive, were responsible.

Mr Powe said that if British Gas wanted to hold on to its market share after the household market was progressively opened to competition from 1996 it must "recapture" consumer confidence.

According to the council, the level of customer dissatisfaction seemed to have peaked in January, and was now falling again. Mr Powe said British Gas appeared to be responding to customer pressure.

Analysis of the complaints suggests a clear link between customer dissatisfaction and publicity over a 75 per cent pay rise, to £475,000, given to Mr Brown, a rise in prices, and the introduction of a new discount scheme.

Norman Blacker, a British Gas director, said that he was concerned about the figures.

## CBI urges Cabinet to calm sterling

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Confederation of British Industry yesterday attributed nervousness in the financial markets to political uncertainty and called for a Cabinet ceasefire on the single European currency, rather than an interest rate rise, to calm sterling.

Speaking at the London region's annual lunch yesterday, Howard Davies, CBI Director-General, said that the recovery remained soundly based in spite of rising headline inflation and a softening of retail demand.

But he said that the fly in the ointment remained investment where intentions were weak. "That is why we hope that the authorities will not react to market uncertainty with another interest rate rise which does not look justified in anti-inflation terms."

He said that the markets had clearly been unsettled by this week's economic news, but that there was no cause for alarm. The pound yesterday

stabilised on a trade-weighted basis, closing at 87.1, compared with 87.0 on Wednesday. But sterling remained weak against a strong German mark, closing about one pfennig lower on the day at DM2.3498. Most European currencies have been battered by the mark's strength.

Sterling, however, has also had to contend with continuing in-fighting within the Government over the single currency. Ann Robinson, head of the policy unit at the Institute of Directors, yesterday weighed into the debate, saying that Economic and Monetary Union "must be the most risky policy choice that any politicians have made since the dawn of democracy".

She added that EMU would be a trap from which no escape was permitted until the markets blew it apart as they did the exchange-rate mechanism.

The current debate in Britain about the single currency

is taking place against a background of mounting currency turbulence centred on strength in the German mark. The mark is profiting from increasing talk about when the Bundesbank will move German marks higher for the first time since the economy began to recover. Yesterday, the Bundesbank's policy-making council left rates unchanged as widely expected.

Reinforcing German rate speculation is the current row between IG Metall, Germany's largest union, and employers that has led to threats of strike action. German economists argue that any capitalisation by employers would make a rate rise more likely.

The mark's strength sent the Italian lira to an all-time low of 1076.30 to the mark, forcing the Bank of Italy to intervene in its defence. Like Britain, Italy's currency has been reeling partly to political troubles with fears that Lamberto Dini, Italy's Prime Minister,

will not be able to push through his plans for tackling Italy's huge budget deficit.

The mark also continued to put the dollar under pressure. The US currency fell to 1.49 to the mark yesterday, its lowest level since the beginning of November. US statistics showing jobless claims a little higher than expected and a sharp fall in housing starts undermined the currency.

Also undermining the dollar yesterday was revived fear about the knock-on effect of continuing turmoil in Mexico. Continued uncertainty caused by the rebellion in Chiapas and bad news about the financial health of several Mexican companies hit the peso and, in turn, the dollar.

In Britain, sterling's weakness and a negative start on Wall Street contributed to a fall of 23.8 points on the day. The FT-SE 100 index closed at 3,051.1.

Stock markets, page 26

## Barclays ordered to pay firm £1.8m

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

BARCLAYS BANK has lost its appeal against a High Court ruling that it make an interim payment of £1.8 million and costs to Crimpfil, a South Wales company that went into administration in 1991 after the bank withdrew an overdraft facility.

Last April Mr Justice Horden found that "on the balance of probabilities Crimpfil's failure was due to Barclays' breaches". The full trial for damages is due to be heard in June. Crimpfil's full claim is understood to be in excess of £10 million.

Barclays said it was "disappointed" by the judgment, but was "planning ahead for the quantum hearing in June". It

said it had felt that the interim payment was too high. Keith Goodman, joint administrator of the company and a partner in Leonard Curtis, the insolvency firm, said the case was "a true illustration of the value of administrations".

Crimpfil made twisted yarn for stretch fabric. Barclays had granted it a £2 million overdraft in July 1989 and cancelled it the following May. Administrators were appointed in July 1991.

The success of the Crimpfil action has caused banks concern that they could face a series of copy-cat claims from small companies whose loans have been cancelled in similar circumstances.

## Europe acts over nuclear funding

By COLIN NARBROUGH

THE European Parliament last night voted overwhelmingly in favour of an emergency resolution that called for the blocking of European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) funds for a controversial nuclear project in Slovakia.

The cross-party resolution said the DM412 million EBRD contribution to the bank's biggest single investment, should not be approved until safety issues had been satisfactorily resolved.

The EBRD, based in London, the European Commission and the European Investment Bank were all requested to postpone decisions on the DM1.4 billion project.

Approval of the resolution heightened the political opposition to the project, which has so far been led by non-nuclear Austria, a neighbour of Slovakia. Franz Vranitzky, the Austrian Chancellor, yesterday declared his Government's official rejection of the project, located 100 miles from the Austrian frontier.

Herr Vranitzky, whose country threatens to become the first EBRD member to quit the bank, said he planned to discuss the Mochovce project with John Major, when the Prime Minister visits Vienna next month.

Greenpeace, the environmental group, issued a damning report on the project in London on Wednesday, saying that it lay on a tectonic fault, besides being unsafe and not the lowest cost option.

## Industry generates £3bn surplus

By OUR ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE strong performance of British industry boosted corporation tax receipts and allowed a £3 billion surplus on the Government's accounts in January.

The City was, however, divided yesterday on whether strong company tax inflows would allow the Government to undershoot its projection for a Public Sector Borrowing Requirement of £34 billion this year. While industrial activity has been growing strongly, consumer demand

has been weakening, leading to a falling away of VAT revenues, despite VAT on fuel.

The January surplus, quite usual at this time of the year as companies with financial years ending in April rush to beat a deadline for paying corporation tax, left the PSBR for the first ten months of the year at a cumulative total of £20.1 billion. In January last year, the inflow of funds was £1.8 billion and left a cumulative PSBR of £29.1 billion.

The bumper receipts this

January do not necessarily mean that the PSBR will undershoot the Government's projection. The Central Statistical Office noted that February and March last year saw a combined borrowing requirement of £1.8 billion.

Another focus of market attention was the publication of the minutes from the meeting on December 28 between Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England. Since that meeting, the two

decided to raise interest rates by a further 1/2 point to 6.75 per cent this month.

They noted that manufacturing output growth has been strong but that consumer demand has been weak and may decline further. They also said that an export-led recovery is not necessarily less inflationary than growth generated by domestic demand and concluded that another interest rate rise was not necessary.

Pennington, page 25

## Charles quits as life president of Saatchi

By JON ASHWORTH

CHARLES SAATCHI formally resigned as honorary life president of Saatchi & Saatchi yesterday, leaving a potential £1.2 million payout unresolved. The move, flagged last week, came the day after two important clients announced that they were switching their business.

Mr Saatchi, 51, is now free to join his brother, Maurice, 48, in a rival venture, provisionally dubbed The New Saatchi Advertising Agency. In resigning, he walks away from a contract worth £312,000 a year with four years left to run.

Mr Saatchi hopes to agree an out-of-court settlement with Saatchi & Saatchi, but he reserves the right to sue for constructive dismissal. He would argue

that the agency had made his position intolerable by serving three writs on him while he was still in office, refusing to meet him, and by openly accusing him of gross misconduct.

In a terse statement, Saatchi & Saatchi said it accepted his resignation and totally rejected any suggestion of unfair or constructive dismissal. Charles is technically bound by two years of covenants restricting him from poaching clients or staff. Suspicions that he was about to resign surfaced during a court hearing last week, in which Saatchi & Saatchi was seeking to bind three senior directors to the terms of their service contracts. In an affidavit read out in court, Charles said he intended to join his brother as soon as possible. Saatchi & Saatchi later admitted

that he had signed heads of agreement relating to the formation of the new agency. It separately launched legal proceedings against the various parties, including Charles, in an attempt to stop them using the Saatchi name. A third writ aims at recovering funds arising from an investment in Adidas, the German sporting goods group.

Gallaher, the maker of Silk Cut cigarettes, announced on Wednesday that it was switching its business to the new rival agency. Charles wrote the Silk Cut campaign, but never became involved in day-to-day issues. Mirror Group Newspapers has also switched, taking billings of £7.9 million with it. Saatchi & Saatchi said new business wins have more than made up for the losses.



Charles Saatchi: new firm

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## Directors of failed firms face longer bans

By MARTIN BARROW  
CITY NEWS EDITOR

UNFIT directors of failed companies are now more likely to be disqualified by the courts, and for longer periods, the Insolvency Service said yesterday. In the final quarter of last year, 140 disqualification orders were made by the courts, compared with 83 in the same period in 1993, an increase of 69 per cent, according to figures published yesterday. During the quarter, the number of directors disqualified

for between five years and the maximum 15 years increased to 61 per cent of the total, against 42 per cent in the last three months of 1993. Those affected by the Insolvency Service's get-tough approach included Nicholas de Savary, brother of Peter de Savary, the developer, and Joseph Keefe, who received disqualification orders of five and two years respectively in October in connection with their conduct in the management of Seawillow Limited. Seawillow was a property develop-

ment company that went into voluntary liquidation in March 1991 with an estimated deficiency as regards creditors of more than £18 million. Now expected to be in excess of £30 million. When Seawillow ceased trading Mr de Savary's current account with the company was overdrawn by some £2.8 million. So far, the liquidator has been unable to recover the £2.8 million from Mr de Savary, who is now subject to an individual voluntary arrangement. The Insolvency Service said that

disqualification proceedings were started against 290 directors of failed companies in the final quarter of 1994, compared with 119 directors in the final quarter of 1993, a rise of 144 per cent. During 1994, disqualification orders for periods of between five and 15 years increased to 53 per cent of the total as against an average 41 per cent for the years 1986 to 1993. By December 31, a total of 1162 applications for disqualifications awaited determination by the courts. Disqualification proceedings against 74

of these directors were based on reports from official receivers on companies ordered to be wound up by the courts and 216 were based on reports by insolvency practitioners in other insolvency proceedings. In the same quarter of 1993, proceedings began against 15 directors based on reports from official receivers and 104 from insolvency practitioners. A total of 747 proceedings commenced against directors for the 12 months to the end of December 1994, a rise of 77 per cent over 1993.

## Industry told R&D is key to unlock markets

By COLIN NARBROUGH

BRITISH industry's low spending on research and development (R&D) is deeply worrying, but there are signs that shareholders are showing greater enthusiasm for management's commitment to R&D, according to Peter Williams, chairman and chief executive of Oxford Instruments.

Mr Williams said that British companies would under-achieve in world markets unless they exploited one of the country's national assets: its science and technology base. Industry, shareholders and the City had to invest in the whole process of innovation to turn scientific prowess into hard cash.

At the QE2 conference centre in Westminster last night, Mr Williams became the first British chief executive to deliver the UK Innovation Lecture, an annual event sponsored by the Royal Society, the Royal Academy of Engineering, the Department of Trade and Industry, the Confederation of British Industry and the Design Council.

The choice of Oxford Instruments, a university start-up company involved in a range of leading-edge technologies and now listed, is an accolade for a relatively small company. The previous speakers had been the heads of Sony, Glaxo and Ericsson.

Mr Williams said his com-

pany spent three to four times more on R&D than it distributed in dividends, while the average listed UK company distributed twice as much in dividends as it devoted to R&D. He said he dreamt of British industry increasing its R&D by 1 per cent of turnover, which would raise R&D expenditure by 60 per cent.

Oxford Instruments was strongly supported in its commitment to R&D by its investors, Mr Williams said. "More often than not you can trace the origins of the UK's under-investment to a company boardroom rather than the City."

Small, hi-tech companies were, however, still better appreciated in America, Japan and Germany, Mr Williams said, but he noted that Britain had world class scientific research, which combined well with Japanese-style manufacturing discipline.

Although seed-corn finance was readily available in Britain for science-based ventures, the difficulty of finding more capital forced companies to the stock market earlier than in competitor countries. The scale of investment involved, if British industry wanted the same innovation rate as its international rivals, called for consensus between shareholders and management, not confrontation.



Henry Sweetbaum, chairman of Wickes: optimistic despite Sainsbury's expansion

## Wickes DIY flourishes in tough competition

By SUSAN GLICHRIST

WICKES, the DIY and timber merchant, shrugged off the difficulties that have plagued other retailers in the DIY market to report a 69 per cent rise in profits last year.

The group, which is set to become the fourth-largest DIY retailer in Britain after the acquisition of Texas Homecare by J Sainsbury's Homebase, saw pre-tax profits jump to £30.1 million from £17.8 million in the year to December 31.

The result was well ahead of City expectations and prompted some analysts to upgrade their forecasts for the current year from about £40 million to £45 million.

Henry Sweetbaum, chairman, said the Wickes chain had increased its UK market share to just under 6 per cent from about 4.6 per cent. "We achieved double-digit growth every month except for August," he said.

He remained optimistic about the prospects for further growth despite Sainsbury's takeover of Texas. He said Homebase was at the more decorative end of the DIY market while Wickes serviced the structural end. "We are complementary rather than competitive," he said.

Hunter Timber, the group's timber importing and distribution operation, returned to profit. However, Malden Timber, the timber merchant chain, remained in the red.

A final dividend of 1.3p (0.8p) brings the total payout to 1.3p (1.0p). Shareholders will be paid on July 18.

Tempus, page 26

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### PIA members face £3m jump in fees

THE Personal Investment Authority has announced that annual fees for its members will have to rise by £3 million in the next financial year to meet the regulator's £30.6 million financing needs. Members will also have to find an extra £3.2 million in 1995-96 to fund the newly established Pensions Unit.

This was established on the orders of the Securities and Investments Board, the chief city regulator, to deal with the review of hundreds of thousands of cases concerning the mis-selling of personal pension policies which is about to be undertaken by life companies and independent financial advisers. The PIA will also have to pay an even greater share towards the cost of supporting the SIB. Costs for the SIB's fees in the next financial year will rise from £5.5 million to £6.2 million. Other extra costs will be incurred by the new Ombudsman's office and the Investors Compensation Scheme levy, to be set in April. The main burden of the increased regulatory costs will fall on life and unit trust companies. The former members of Lauro face a total fee increase in 1995-96 of 14.7 per cent while independent financial advisers, who used to belong to Fimbra, will have to pay an extra 9.3 per cent. The extra costs are certain to anger PIA members who feel that they are paying too much for the stricter regulatory regime which is now in place.

### Barclays request

BARCLAYS BANK is expected to ask its shareholders for the power to buy back its own shares at its annual meeting in May. The move would enable it to use excess capital to improve the quality of earnings for shareholders. To do so, it needs their permission. The bank is in the middle of a review of capital requirements. Barclays had the ability to buy back shares, but let it lapse in 1993. Another alternative for the bank would be to pay a special dividend to shareholders when it announces its results in March.

### US housing gloom

CONSTRUCTION starts on new homes and apartments in America tumbled at the sharpest rate in a year in January, the Commerce Department reported yesterday as rising interest rates sapped the housing industry. The annual rate of starts on new homes dropped 9.5 per cent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.38 million homes after a revised fall of 0.6 per cent in December. That was a much steeper plunge than expected by economists, who had forecast January starts at a rate of 1.49 million annually.

### Green to leave Scotrail

CHRIS GREEN, head of Scotrail and one of British Rail's most outspoken critics of privatisation, is to take early retirement. Mr Green, once tipped as a possible successor to Sir Bob Reid as chairman of BR, is leaving the industry at the end of the month to pursue other interests. He is regarded as one of BR's most successful managers. In a recent article, Mr Green said he would be running Scotrail down if he did not receive more subsidy. He predicted that the consequence of cuts in funding would be to run fewer trains with fewer staff.

### EBC expects losses

EBC GROUP, the construction company based in Exeter, expects to incur annual losses of around £5 million as a result of writedowns and restructuring costs and sees the final dividend at 0.5p a share, reducing the total to 2.25p (4p). Profits are expected to be around £750,000 for 1994, but the company will take a £5.8 million one-off charge due to property writedowns and restructuring costs. The company's announcement came after share trading had ended for the day and EBC shares closed unchanged at 61p.

### Albert Fisher update

ALBERT FISHER, the food group, yesterday reported that trading was in line with expectations but added that the results for the full year would be hit by a £6.5 million exceptional loss on the sale of its Belgian food broking business last year. In a trading update, the group said the £6.5 million exceptional loss following the disposal of Delbys last November mainly represented the reversal of goodwill previously written off to reserves. Profits from North America, which accounts for about 30 per cent of the group, have improved.

### Insurers join forces

LEADING insurance brokers have joined forces to provide a terrorism insurance scheme for commercial property in the UK. The scheme, set up by Willis Corroon, Bowring, Sedgwick, Bain Hogg, and Alexander & Alexander in association with the British Insurance and Investment Brokers' Association, offers cover up to £25 million for each property. The advantage of the scheme over Pool Re, the government-backed arrangement, is that companies can pick and choose which individual properties they want to insure.

### ECGD widens access

THE Export Credits Guarantee Department has widened access to two of its reinsurance facilities to put other credit insurers on level terms with NCM, the Dutch company that bought ECGD's short-term operations in 1991. As part of the deal, NCM was allowed sole access to ECGD reinsurance. Last year Trade Indemnity was also allowed access to the ECGD's "top-up" reinsurance facility. The move makes available to all eligible credit insurers the ECGD's "long-and-large" and "national interest" reinsurance facilities.

### Bell and AT&T at odds

AT&T, the US telecoms company, was jilted by the smaller Bell Atlantic yesterday, and will no longer play a role in the building of a profitable, high-tech, interactive video network for eight million homes. Bell Atlantic was set to announce formally that AT&T had been dropped as "systems integrator", or general contractor, for the ambitious project. The larger telephone company regarded its appointment last May as a coup. The two firms are believed to have become embroiled in disputes over the terms of the contract.

## Private route for the M1 and M6

By JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

HUGE motorway widening schemes could be included in the next phase of the Government's programme of handing over responsibility for new roads to the private sector.

Department of Transport officials regard large-scale motorway projects as the next logical step in the development of the Government's Design, Build, Finance and Operate (DBFO) contracts.

They point to the plans to widen the M6 between Birmingham and Manchester and the M1 between London and Birmingham as candidates for a third tranche of DBFO projects.

So far, the Government has announced eight DBFO road schemes, worth more than £500 million and accounting for about 6 per cent of England's trunk road network.

John Watts, the Roads Minister, said there had been "an enthusiastic response" from the private sector to the first DBFO projects. "We now want to extend their expertise into the management of important roads," he said.

Consortia of contractor-backed private funding will build and maintain the roads over the course of 30-year contracts, receiving "shadow tolls" from the Government based on the number of cars

using the roads. The contracts for the first tranche of the DBFO project are likely to be awarded in the autumn and the second in spring 1996.

There are no current plans to offer further contracts, but if the experimental schemes prove successful responsibility for much of England's motorway network could be in private hands by early next century.

The projects raise the prospect of rival motorways competing through advertising to attract drivers and the revenues they generate from the Government.



Watts: more expertise

## Mercury job losses running much faster than expected

By ERIC REGULY

THE job-loss programme at Mercury Communications is running 50 per cent ahead of schedule and has caused more forced redundancies than anticipated when Mercury unveiled its restructuring plan in early December.

Duncan Lewis, chief executive, said that almost 1,800 of company's 11,400 employees have left already. He had expected no more than 1,200 workers to go by March, and a further 1,300 by the end of the year. The quick pace of the cuts means that Mercury has

to eliminate only 700 additional jobs.

Mercury, however, failed to reach its voluntary redundancy target. Mr Lewis thought that 70 per cent would take the voluntary severance package, but only 60 per cent did so.

The first round of job cuts have hit management especially hard. Almost half of the company's 1,000 managers are gone. The total job loss programme will cost about £40 million. Mr Lewis said the target of shedding 1,200 employees by March had

been based on quickly made assumptions. "I had only three weeks to plan the restructuring," he said, adding that the first phase did not match expectations.

With most of the job cuts out of the way, Mercury now is concentrating on refining its long-term business plan. It has hired Bain & Co, the management consultant, to map out new "strategic marketing" plans for each of the main operating divisions.

Carrying message, page 27

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	2.21	2.04
Austria Sch	17.81	18.11
Belgium F	47.37	47.37
Canada \$	2.39	2.149
Cyprus Cyp£	0.771	0.718
Denmark Kr	9.82	9.12
Finland Mk	7.84	7.19
France F	6.64	7.98
Germany Dm	2.62	2.61
Hong Kong \$	382.00	287.00
Ireland P	12.77	11.77
Italy Lira	1.08	0.88
Japan Yen	5.2168	4.4688
Netherlands Gld	2615.00	2490.00
Norway Kr	168.00	152.00
Poland Zl	16.812	0.357
Portugal Esc	2.798	2.658
Spain Ptas	255.00	10.13
Sweden Kr	10.66	10.66
Switzerland F	2.13	1.95
Turkey Lira	1.87	0.8940.0
USA \$	1.00	1.00

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□ Gas lesson for Microsoft □ Inflation figures invalidate rate rise decision □ Dilemma over non-executives' gravy train

## Monopoly muddles

EVERYONE hates monopolies. How to deal with them is a trickier issue on both sides of the Atlantic. The US Justice Department is in the embarrassing position of appealing to the courts on behalf of Microsoft, which controls 70 per cent of the market for computer operating systems. An interventionist Federal District judge threw out a deal between the company and the Department on the grounds that the concessions wrung out of Microsoft were feeble.

Judge Stanley Sporkin said the agreement barring a range of measures to keep competitors out was too little too late, merely telling Microsoft "to go forth and sin no more". The judge reckoned the anti-trust authorities should have attacked the "unfair advantage" the company had already built up and tried to break Microsoft's monopoly.

The Justice Department is understandably upset, having taken over a fruitless four-year investigation by another agency. It might be fortified in its resolve if it glanced across to Britain. Having suffered comparable frustrations over the monopoly position of British Gas, the authorities went for the big bang, breaking the monopoly in all but pipelines, forcing in competition at break-neck speed.

Responding to the challenge, British Gas has imported a new,

toughly commercial, competitive culture. The unhappy side-effects have hogged the headlines for months. Yesterday's report from the Gas Consumers Council, detailing a rapid rise in complaints from customers, suggests that the pace of forced change is now damaging the company's basic business.

Ian Powe, pragmatic GCC director, asks "whether British Gas has been temporarily blown off course by the wind of change now rushing through the gas industry, or has deliberately altered course away from the perils of spending as much on customer care as they once did". He reckons "the pace of change has outstripped public patience".

In Britain, the authorities have done what Judge Sporkin wanted. They imposed a theoretically optimum solution, but did not think out the consequences. In the short term, at least, these are bad for many consumers. Microsoft's monopoly is not natural, like gas, still less legal. Its dominance was built by its own skill via free competition and has made it one of America's greatest industrial assets. By making

standards backed by its own patent rights, however, Microsoft's dominance has become just as entrenched.

After those four fruitless years, the Justice Department gave up the idea of breaking the monopoly, which might have damaged a successful company needlessly. Instead, it restricted itself to stopping Microsoft abusing its monopoly to milk customers, to give its own new products an unfair advantage and to keep out competitors artificially. The consent decree may not have done this too well. There will doubtless be further measures. But the intention was surely right.

### Odd light in dark corners

THERE seemed every reason for Kenneth Clarke and Eddie George to stay their hand on interest rates at their meeting on December 28 and the minutes published yesterday shed rather an odd light on the decision to raise rates at their next meeting on February 2.

Both men acknowledged that



consumer spending appeared to be slowing and that it was too soon at that stage to determine whether stronger sales at Christmas time would be sustained and lead to upward pressure on prices. They expressed concern about incipient price pressures at the beginning of the production chain but the Chancellor in particular questioned whether retailers would be able to raise prices, even if they wanted to.

In retrospect, this wait and see approach seems eminently sensible. This week's figures wiped out the perception only about a fortnight ago that inflation at the input price level would feed through to the high street. Retail sales fell 0.9 per cent in January while retail prices were un-

changed on the month. For all the headlines about "soaring" inflation because the annual rate had risen, price pressures were remarkably subdued in January.

It is just as likely that the continued squeeze on the high street will feed back along the production chain and stop the rise in producer prices in its track than the opposite. Mr Clarke, in yesterday's minutes, appeared to pour cold water on Mr George's worry that higher raw materials costs would push up factory gate prices and eventually prices in the shops.

If the strength in retail sales during December was the reason why rates were raised on February 2, then this week's figures rather invalidate the decision.

While it was fashionable only a few weeks ago to worry that the authorities were behind the curve in raising interest rates to prevent a build-up of inflationary pressures, it is not now outlandish to worry whether they have indulged in overkill.

Euphoria over the export-led recovery could soon turn to gloom if the high street slumps back into recession. Rebalancing the econ-

omy away from consumption is a laudable aim but dangerous in the real world when an election has to be fought.

### The part-time option

A SLY little amendment to this year's Finance Bill, slipped in by the Government with no great fanfare, could be good news for impecunious non-executive directors who may feel they are missing their just rewards.

The plight of the nation's non-executives was a surprising omission from the recent Rowntree report into poverty, despite the revelation this week that they earn on average a mere £14,400 for a grinding 15 days' work a year. They have also, up till now, been left off the share option gravy train.

Part-time employees who work less than 20 hours a week, or directors on less than 25 hours, cannot be included in Tax Approved Executive Share Option Schemes, which means a tax charge arises for them as soon as the option is exercised and before

any monetary gain is seen. But European Court pressure to give part-timers equal rights has prompted the amendment, which brings them into the tax-approved schemes.

There is only one minor flaw. Share options for non-executives, although neither illegal nor entirely unknown, are very much against the Cadbury Code. Non-executive share options are unusual, at least in part, because they are so tax-inefficient — at least up until now. Cadbury is, of course, not compulsory, although companies who do not comply must, under Stock Exchange rules, say so in the accounts. Here is the dilemma for the unscrupulous: is it worth a breach of Cadbury to reward non-executives to the same degree that they have already rewarded their executives?

### Taxing brief

AS another mammoth Finance Bill meanders through Parliament, the Treasury promises rebellious tax experts it will consider making tax laws simpler. Using clear, simple language is down to raising the skills and status of draughtsmen. For laws to be brief, government would need to resurrect an all-embracing anti-avoidance law that the courts tried but shied away from. Tax experts would hate that.



Kleinwort's strategy has been successful and the bank is not looking for suitors, says Lord Rockley, the chairman

## Kleinwort fights back against the hard times

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

KLEINWORT BENSON has bucked the recent trend among investment banks, limiting the fall in its 1994 profits to just 5 per cent at £97 million. The picture painted by Kleinwort is in stark contrast to the situation at some of its rivals, notably S G Warburg.

The figures reflect a huge drop in dealing profits from £104 million in 1993 to £43.3 million in turbulent equity and bond markets, offset by a 16 per cent increase in fees and commissions to £310.7 million.

Kleinwort has been the subject of continued stock market speculation that it will be taken over. Lord Rockley, the chairman, said: "We have a strategy which we have proven is successful in tough conditions. That is what we are taking forward. I am not

looking for suitors." He did not comment on whether the bank has had approaches other than to say: "There is a different rumour every day" and he would not comment on rumours. He said: "In general 1994 was a successful year for Kleinwort Benson. We have seen our strategy succeed in what have been pretty difficult conditions."

Total costs rose by just 0.24 per cent to £34.3 million. Staff costs were 7 per cent higher at £212.6 million, which includes provision for bonus payments.

Bonuses will be paid next month, Lord Rockley said. Kleinwort "intends to pay competitive bonuses," but would not comment on the size of the bonus pool. A decline in other administrative expenses from £108.1 million to £98

million was due to a £7 million release of the £17 million provisions made in 1992 and 1993 for the expected future costs of excess space.

Rob Jeens, finance director, said that the head count had reduced but is now rising at a faster than anticipated rate and some of the space is no longer surplus. Kleinwort also made a net release of bad debt provisions, up from £700,000 to £9.3 million. Investment banking profits fell from £76.1 million to £61.9 million, hit by a fall in dealing profits and offset by rising corporate finance activity.

Last year Kleinwort advised on 40 mergers and acquisitions worth over £10 billion, up 100 per cent on 1993's value. The company is currently advising the govern-

ment on the sale of the second tranche of shares in the power generating companies.

The investment management business lifted its profits from £26.4 million to £35.1 million. The business has £14.3 billion funds under management, up from £13 billion, while those managed by its associates and joint ventures more than doubled from £6 billion to £13.6 billion.

Lord Rockley said there were good business opportunities this year, but markets remained subdued by political and economic uncertainties.

The dividend has been increased by 16 per cent to 21.5p, at the higher end of expectations. The final payment of 14.75p is due on May 9.

Tempos, page 26

## Albright chiefs buy at new float price

By NEIL BENNETT, DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

THE directors of Albright & Wilson, the chemicals group, have raised their investment in the company's flotation following the decision of its advisers earlier to sell the shares off at a cut price earlier this week.

Both Sir Christopher Benson, the chairman, and Dr Robin Paul, chief executive, decided to increase their investment in the company by 50 per cent once they learnt that the shares were going to be priced at 150p instead of the minimum of 170p that the City had expected.

The two will now invest £180,000. Many of the company's other managers and employees are also expected to take advantage of the float price.

Albright yesterday confirmed that it has completed the institutional placing at 150p and that now up to 15 per cent of the shares are being offered to the public. The float will raise only £470 million instead of the £600 million

originally expected. Tenneco, Albright's former parent company, yesterday revised down its net profit figures for 1994 by \$104 million to take account of the reduced offer price.

The lower float price has also provided Albright's directors with the prospect of high profits from their new share option packages. 636,000 options to Dr Paul and two other directors, at the 150p float price. These can be exercised in three years time if the company's earnings grow by more than 2 per cent ahead of inflation.

Albright has also tried to allay investors' fears about the class action it faces in the US following an explosion at its plant in Charleston, North Carolina. Its prospectus states: "The group's liability insurance policies provide coverage for compensation, damages or other monies that may hereafter be awarded."

Tempos, page 26

## Westland chairman takes off for BICC

By Martin Waller

THE head of the Westland helicopter group, which was taken over by GKN last year, has decamped to become chief executive of BICC, the cables-to-construction group. Alan Jones, 55, at first fiercely opposed the GKN bid as Westland chairman, but then after it was sweetened, joined the GKN board.

He joins BICC in April, taking on some of the burden being shouldered by Sir Robin Biggam, who continues as chairman. Sir Robin has recently signed a new three-year contract with BICC, although he is on a 12-month notice period.

BICC has been seeking a chief executive for a year.

Mr Jones was chief executive of Westland from 1989 and became chairman shortly before the company was acquired by GKN. His replacement as managing director of GKN's aerospace and special vehicles side is David Wright, chief executive of GKN's special vehicles division.

There was some surprise



Alan Jones gets own ship

after the GKN bid for Westland that Mr Jones chose to stay with the group, but his departure after almost a year was unexpected. One market-watcher commented: "He has been offered his own ship to captain."

## Tomkins snaps up Lyons Cakes

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

ALLIED DOMECQ is to sell Lyons Cakes to Tomkins for £35 million in cash as part of its strategy to concentrate on its core spirits and retailing activities.

The Lyons Cakes business, best known for its Lyons Cup Cakes, Swiss Rolls and Battenberg products, has factories in Carlton and Wakefield in Yorkshire and a distribution operation in Dublin.

Greg Hutchings, Tomkins' chief executive, said the business would complement the group's Manor Bakeries operation, which manufactures Mr Kipling and Cadbury's Cakes and was acquired as part of the RHM deal in 1992. He believes there are substantial savings to be made from combining the two businesses through improved

manufacturing processes and greater distribution efficiency.

He refused to be drawn on the likelihood of job losses among Lyons' 1,700 employees. The business is expected to make profit before interest and tax of £3.4 million on sales of £95.1 million in the year to March 3.

Tomkins already has 19 per cent of the branded cake market and the acquisition of Lyons Cakes, which has a share of just under 10 per cent, is subject to clearance by the Office of Fair Trading.

Allied Domecq has now raised more than £300 million from the disposal of its food manufacturing businesses. It is still looking for a buyer for its Tetley tea operation, the leading brand in Britain.

## Computer group's shares suspended

By PHILIP PANGALOS

SHARES in Enterprise Computer Holdings, the loss-making computer services group formerly known as Systems Reliability, have been suspended at 3p "pending clarification of the company's financial position".

Hoare Govett, the company's broker, was not willing to comment further, but the news prompted fears about Enterprise's future. Nobody at Enterprise was available for comment although a further announcement was promised.

Enterprise is capitalised at £2.4 million at its latest share price although the shares were trading above the 30p level a year ago. It has been struggling over the past few years and said recently that it was in discussions with its bankers and analysts on a possible financial restructuring.

The group had said that it expected to declare the out-

come of the talks together with its interim on February 15, but Enterprise's results were further delayed until today.

In the last set of figures reported, Enterprise incurred a pre-tax loss of £20.5 million (£6.14 million loss) in the year to March 31, 1994, on turnover of £16.4 million (£58.2 million). No dividend has been paid since 1992.

The company, which was known as Systems Reliability until 1991, used to be run by Robert Evans, formerly of Hillsdown, but he sold most of his stake when Shaun Dowling, a former Guinness director, took over.

Mr Dowling later handed over to John Small, the present chairman. Enterprise originally sold used mainframe computers, but an attempt to reposition itself in computer services proved more difficult than expected.

Your warmth caresses me,  
And soothes my weary brow.  
The gentle waves that are your laughter  
Revitalise my spirit.  
And when at last I have to leave you  
I feel I have been born anew.

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# London fails to follow New York's record run

HOPES that London would capitalise on Wall Street's overnight record breaking run were quickly scuppered as renewed weakness in both the pound and the dollar came back to haunt investors.

The FT-SE 100 index saw an early lead of nine points, wiped out as investors continued to run scared of the uncertain political and economic outlook. At one stage, the index was almost 30 points down as New York opened lower, reflecting renewed fears about the knock-on effect of turmoil in Mexico. Continued uncertainty caused by the rebellion in the province of Chiapas and bad news about the financial health of several Mexican companies hit the peso and, in turn, the dollar.

The index eventually closed 23.8 down at 3,051.1 with a total of 666.7 million shares changing hands.

The economic news this week has been far from encouraging with evidence of a slowdown in growth coupled with another sharp rise in the cost of living. Dealers are refusing to rule out the possibility of another rise in interest rates in the short term. There was certainly nothing contained within the minutes of the monthly meeting between Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, the Bank of England Governor, to suggest that a solution had been found to revitalise the "feel-good" factor.

Nervous, the building materials group, was a late casualty, falling 17p to 80p after issuing a warning that it was likely to plunge into the red in the current year to March 31. Norcross said it was undertaking a big restructuring resulting in substantial provisions and property writedowns. There is also a question mark over the final dividend.

Norcross said margin pressure had continued in the second half and had been particularly acute in the building products division.

Mirror Group continued to lose ground, falling 5p to 125p. Last week, the shares touched 149p after MGN reached an out-of-court settlement with the Maxwell pensioners.

Takeover favourite Fisons enjoyed late support adding 2p to 118p as more than 2 million shares were traded. But Unigate fell 4p to 352p after being hit by reports that Sandoz, the Swiss pharmaceutical group, had denied sug-



An upbeat trading statement helped Albert Fisher shares

gestions it planned to bid for Nutricia, the Dutch baby foods group. Unigate has a 33 per cent stake in Nutricia which has been priced at more than £200 million.

British Aerospace stood out with a rise of 11p to 482p ahead of a meeting with Hoare Govett, the broker, scheduled for last night.

National Power eased 2p to

for National Power and 185p for Powergen followed by similar second instalments.

Overseas investors will be required to make an initial down payment of 180p for National Power and 195p for PowerGen as part of the international tender offer.

There were signs of much needed support for BICC, the cables group, with the price

Worries about a slowdown in revenue growth tainted impressive figures from Reuters on Wednesday, but brokers rallied round the company yesterday with buy notes from Henderson Crosthwaite, NatWest Securities and Oldbairns Venetia. NatWest says the shares represent outstanding value.

markets. As expected, pre-tax profits last year declined, although the 5 per cent fall to £97 million was less than some brokers had anticipated. The shares, which have been the subject of intense takeover speculation, finished 7p lower at 632p.

A reasonable upbeat trading statement enabled Albert Fisher, the fruit and vegetable distributor, to avoid the downward pull of the market and finish the day with a rise of a penny at 45p. The group said trading had continued to match expectations although full-year figures would include a loss of £6.5 million relating to the sale of Dellys, its Belgium unit.

Things seem to be going from bad to worse at WMGO, the international marketing group, headed by Bob Morton. The shares slipped 2p to 94p after the group warned that profits for the full year were unlikely to exceed last year's figure and that there will be no final dividend.

The group blamed the problem on the worsening situation at its loss-making MMC Marketing and Communications, the PR consultancy business, which is to be closed. Its closure was certain to depress full-year figures.

Shares of Enterprise Computers were suspended at 3p pending clarification of the company's financial position. Last month, the group announced it was in talks with its bankers regarding financial restructuring. Interim figures were expected on Wednesday but were subsequently postponed until today.

GILT-EDGED: Gifts fluctuated in narrow limits for much of the day. The PSBR figures were unable to offer any support and an attempt to rally on the back of the Philadelphia Federal Reserve Index lacked conviction.

In the futures pit the March series of the long gilt fell 1/16 to £101 1/2, as 64,000 contracts were completed.

Among conventional issues benchmark Treasury 8 per cent 2013 fell 1/4 to 95 1/2, while in shorts Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was 1/16 easier at 97 1/2.

WALL STREET: US shares were lower at midday after a slumping dollar and continued turmoil in Latin American markets unnerved investors. The Dow Jones industrial average was down 12.11 points at 3,974.06.

FT all-share index (rebased)

Share price

Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb

2200 2000 1800 1600 1400 1200 1000 800 600 400 200 0

100 120 140 160 180 200 220

100 120 140 160 180 200 220

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## MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday): Dow Jones 3974.06 (-12.11) S&P Composite 483.51 (-1.09)

Tokyo: Nikkei Average 17780.59 (-210.41)

Hong Kong: Hang Seng 8133.34 (-30.20)

Amsterdam: EOE Index 410.09 (-1.18)

Sydney: AD 1862.02 (-11.3)

Frankfurt: DAX 2115.72 (-19.32)

Singapore: Straits 2133.07 (-23.30)

Brussels: General 7092.51 (-3.11)

Paris: CAC-40 1835.00 (-26.90)

Zurich: SBA Gen 628.00 (-3.50)

London: FT 100 3051.1 (-23.8)

FT-SE 100 3051.1 (-23.8)

FT-SE 250 3438.7 (-14.5)

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## TEMPUS

The price of power

THE Government's privatisation machine, as engineered by Kleinwort Benson, Warburg & Co, is by now a well-honed racer. Its improved performance after each share sale has added a new refinement, which makes it a pity that the National Power/PowerGen share issue is probably the last model.



# THE TIMES CITY DIARY

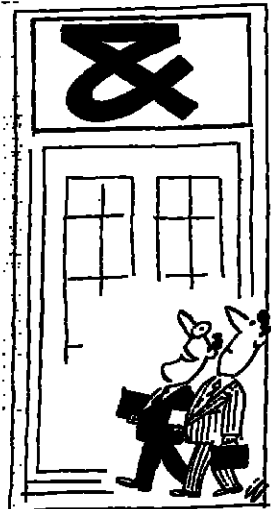
## Back to school on Wall Street

OLDER brokers who left school decades ago can be thankful that a Stock Exchange examination pass lasts for as long as they stay in the profession. On Wall Street, the Securities and Exchange Commission has decided that brokers must have continuous education and take three-and-a-half hours of computerised training in rules and ethics at the end of their licence periods. Such intervals fall at two, five and ten years. There are 480,000 brokers on Wall Street, but old-timers with a clean record after a decade are exempt. In London, there are 1,400 firms and 40,000 individuals on the books of the Securities and Futures Authority, which tells me that an SFA exam pass remains valid as long as a "competent person" remains competent and employed. However, under another new SEC rule, securities firms start classes in 1996 for brokers and supervisors covering the investments in which the firm deals.

**JAMES CAPEL and JO Hambro Magan** have been appointed London advisers to Vancouver-listed Avoca Ventures, which is named after a wading bird with webbed feet, has a market capitalisation of \$8120 million and is heavily into tungsten and gold mines. London and Toronto listings are planned by June.

## Cheque point

**NATWEST** officials went to their vaults yesterday, bowed low before a glass case, and sang "happy birthday" to the second oldest known English cheque in existence. It was drawn on Clayton and Morris, "bankers, law scrivens and estate agents of Cornhill", signed by Nicholas Vanacker, dated 16-2-1659, and payable to Mr Delboe. It was for £400, which today equates to £29,300.



"It used to be  
Saatchi & Saatchi"

## Fags lit up

THE train standing at platform one is the 1996 freight train Mejlones heading for the El Abra mine in the Andes. It will take The Antofagasta (Chili) and Bolivia Railway company, which first raised capital in London in 1888, back to its roots. Fags, as the group is known, has been awarded a 12-year contract to haul sulphuric acid up and copper cathodes down the tracks.

## Just the ticket

**REGINALD TOMS** (1892-1968), whose art collection comes under the hammer at Sotheby's in June, may never have been "the man on the Clapham omnibus". But he was the man who built London's first bus station (at Clapham), he did establish his own private bus companies, his architectural practice Toms and Partners did design the Park West 500-flat complex at Marble Arch, and his millions did come to the rescue of troubled Hawker Siddeley during the Second World War. The auction is expected to fetch £2 million.

COLIN CAMPBELL

# Mercury carries message of survival by a niche role

**Eric Reguly says  
Mercury is rapidly  
consigning its  
short history  
to the dustbin**

**M**ercury should consider turning the Mercury Shop on the ground floor of its London headquarters into a museum. Many of the items on display belong to a different era even though they are brand new.

Inside the shop on Red Lion Square is a glass case containing Mercury phone cards. Across the floor is a Mercury call box with its distinctive pagoda-style roof. Both items were made redundant in December, when the company outlined its retreat from the mass-consumer market.

The store's array of phones, equipped with the blue buttons that allow the user to bypass British Telecom's long-distance network, also seem out of place now that Mercury no longer is going after residential customers. The entire store is an anachronism.

The man who made it that way is Duncan James Lewis, 43, the former head of the North American operations of Cable and Wireless who became Mercury's chief executive in November. If he were to design a new Mercury Shop, it would be devoid of consumer products and filled with staff talking about notions such as "solutions" and "micro-marketing" with business customers. Mr Lewis's three months at Mercury have been hectic, to say the least. The week before he joined, he was invited to dinner by James Ross, the chief executive of C&W, Mercury's 80 per cent owner.

Mr Ross asked him to replace Mike Harris, who had virtually built Mercury from scratch. "But it was on the understanding that Mercury clearly had not been able to develop its consumer presence, and was beginning to feel a squeeze," Mr Lewis said. "He gave me a month to come to a view of what had to be done."

On December 5, Mr Lewis's plan came in effect. Mercury would shed 2,500 of its 11,400 jobs by the end of 1995, sell or close several operating divisions, clear the streets of its 3,000 pay phones and take a £120 million charge to pay for it all. The underlying theme was that Mercury no longer would strive to be all things to all people, and no longer needed to build infrastructure. Its ambitious strategy of penetrating all segments had started off well, but had become increasingly difficult by the early 1990s. BT's price reductions, imposed by the Office of Telecommunications, coupled with the hefty fees Mercury had to pay to BT to connect calls with BT's network, were taking their toll. But Mercury could not blame BT and the regulatory regime for all its woes. Mercury simply had overstretched itself in its 10 years.

Mr Lewis said: "We had become overly complex. There were far too many people tripping over each other." Dozens of operating licences, meanwhile, were being issued to new competitors, including AT&T, the



Duncan Lewis, chief executive since November, and a Mercury callbox with its own distinctive style

American phone company. If Mercury was getting pinched now, how could it cope in the free-for-all market a couple of years from now?

Mr Lewis's strategy has two broad components: Cost cutting and focusing attention on selected business markets, a concept he calls "micro-marketing".

Reduced public visibility is an inevitable byproduct of the strategy. Mercury, in fact, may become better known as part of C&W's pan-European machine than the second-largest telecoms company in Britain.

The idea is not far fetched. C&W and Veba, the German industrial group that bought a 10.5 per cent stake in C&W this month, and talked about sliding Mercury into their telecoms joint venture on the Continent. The proposal was abandoned partly because Mercury was busy re-vamping itself, but remains an option in the future. The first part of the strategy - cost-cutting - is ahead of schedule. Mercury had hoped to shed 1,200 jobs by the end of March; almost 1,800 are already gone, leaving only 700 to go. Forty per cent of the 1,800 departures were involuntary and almost half of the company's 1,000 managers are gone. Mr Lewis said it is apparent to him that a lot more can be taken out of Mercury's cost base but he does not anticipate redundancies beyond the 2,500 already announced.

**His strategy  
is cost cutting  
and looking  
at selected  
business  
markets**

The quick job-reduction pace has allowed Mercury to focus early on refining its long-term business plan. It has recruited Bain & Company, the management consultant, to map out the new "strategic marketing plans" of its main operating divisions. Mr Lewis said that Bain, whose assignment lasts only six weeks, is assisting the restructuring, not developing it.

Mercury's problems, although not exaggerated, are hardly life threatening because the company has a strong base of business clients and appears to be in no danger of actually losing money. Indeed, Paribas Capital Markets expects it to make operating profits of £200 million in the current financial year despite the restructuring, and £220 million next year. Its 1994 operating profits were £235 million.

Mr Lewis said the company has 30 per cent of the total corporate market, with particularly strong penetration in the petroleum, pharmaceuticals, travel and government sectors, and 10 per cent of the small and medium-sized business market. While these figures are difficult to verify, and would no doubt be disputed by BT, the consensus among analysts is that almost all of the top 1,000 companies in Britain use Mercury for some services. The challenge is to squeeze more profits from them, keep them from being snatched by the

competition and attract new business. This is where micro-marketing, a term that seems to have been plucked from a 1980s MBA text, comes in.

It means offering sophisticated telecoms services for specific needs - becoming a niche player in other words. C&W and Mercury, for example, have formed a joint venture with Schlumberger, the French oil-services company, to serve the telecoms needs of oil explorers and producers. Devising a system to transmit data from a spinning drill bit to a laboratory thousands of miles away in the US is one possible service.

Mercury also could work with retailers to improve their inventory-control systems. For example, it could create a data network linking supermarkets with their food suppliers. The supplier could monitor the sale of its products at the check-out counter and automatically send out new supplies when inventory levels get low.

Peter Roe, an analyst with Paribas, said Mercury has to become more specialised as competition increases. In a recent report, he said: "It is incumbent upon Mercury to increase the value added that it offers to its customers. Much of the revenue base will be generated from fee income such as network management and the rental of high-quality communications capacity."

Will it work? Mr Lewis admits that the competition "will give us a run for the money" but thinks that BT and AT&T, Mercury's main competitors, are not nimble enough to knock it out of the ring.

# Lloyd's names need offer they cannot refuse

**Lime Street's impeccable image is under  
heavy fire, says Alfred Doll-Steinberg**

**T**he tide has turned. Lloyd's of London no longer has the support it could rely on. By the beginning of this year it was clear that the tide of unfavourable publicity generated by aggrieved Lloyd's names was influencing the opinions of three groups crucial to Lloyd's welfare: the judiciary, the providers of corporate capital and most importantly, Lloyd's policyholders.

Previously, legal skirmishes had ended in decisive victory for Lloyd's. Early in 1992 for example, before the ripples from the struggle between Lloyd's and its names had caught the attention of a wider public, the courts ruled that the Council of Lloyd's owed no duty of care to its names - a decision incomprehensible to most of them. Also that year names from the Gooda Walker Action Group were refused a judicial review of Lloyd's. The application was rejected on technical grounds, but the judges made quite clear

switched most of its 1995 insurance renewals away from Lloyd's. This was said to be one of the biggest rejections for Lloyd's in recent memory, but it was only the tip of the iceberg.

Lloyd's reaction to the Gooda Walker result was to announce that it would change its rules so that Lloyd's could have first call on the money due to the litigating names. But after the Clementson decision Lloyd's mood changed. The plan to amend the rules was dropped "for the time being, to facilitate a new attempt to settle all disputes with the names". A year earlier, when Lloyd's made its £900 million settlement offer, which was rejected by the names, it had stated bluntly that "there are no circumstances in which the offer will be increased". Peter Middleton, Lloyd's chief executive, has embarked on negotiations with the chairman of each of the Lloyd's action groups.

There are currently 43 action groups, up from about 35 before the plan for the new offer was announced. Names are acutely conscious that previously non-litigating names were offered less than litigating ones.

The result is now evident. The disputes are proliferating and none is near a conclusion. The award in the Gooda Walker case is estimated by the action group at 80 per cent of the names' losses, but the agents have no means to pay, except for their errors and omissions insurance, and their insurers claim that their cover is inadequate.

Meanwhile, new action groups are rising by the dozen. The salary-earning committee members are in no hurry to settle and Lloyd's itself, having been proved to be the only possible source of the funds necessary to achieve a settlement, has been drawn in anyway - but at the maximum cost to its image and to its future ability to generate those funds.

The next Lloyd's offer really ought to be the last: the consequences of failure to agree could prove too costly for both sides.

□ The author is the former chairman of the Gooda Walker Action Group

**Disputes are  
proliferating  
and none  
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conclusion**

## BUSINESS LETTERS

### What happens to non-exec fees paid to full-time directors?

From Sir Alan Smith

Sir, I would comment on the pay of non-executive directors as highlighted by your Industrial Editor, Philip Basser, in Business News, February 15.

A highly competent non-executive director fully justifies a salary of approximately £1,000 per day. Regrettably a number of them are of mediocre ability and consequently overpaid. However, you miss

the most important aspect of this subject and one which I have never seen referred to in any discussions of directors' pay and perks.

Your article states that 56 per cent of the 311 non-executive directors interviewed were full-time executive directors of their respective companies. Where this is so - what happens to the fees they collect as non-

executive directors of other companies? I sincerely hope that they are paid into their employing company and not into their personal pockets.

Information on this particular subject might be illuminating. Yours faithfully, ALAN SMITH, Ardgarney House, Cleish, Kinross-shire.

### RPI ignores low income households and may understate inflation

From Mr Chris Pond

Sir, Janet Bush is quite correct to raise questions about the validity of the official Retail Prices Index (RPI) as a measure of inflation ("Getting the lowdown on inflation," January 19), but the reasons for her concern may be misplaced.

Her main worry is that the RPI overstates the true rate of inflation. In fact, the opposite may well be the case.

Ms Bush points out that the RPI expenditure weighting excludes the richest 4 per cent of households. It also excludes the poorest pensioners. And because the weightings are calculated on the basis of total expenditure, the spending pattern of high income households is disproportionately represented.

In fact, the RPI represents most accurately changes in the cost of living of households

about three-quarters of the way up the income scale. It assumes that families spend as much on motoring as on food, more on leisure goods than on fuel and light. This is certainly not the typical spending pattern of the poor.

As a result, the RPI tends to under-represent the impact of price increases affecting essential items which are of more importance in determining changes in the cost of living of low income households.

That is why the Low Pay Unit publishes each month a separate price index for low income households (the LPPI), calculated on exactly the same basis as the RPI but with more appropriate weightings.

The December LPPI figures show an inflation rate of 3 per cent, slightly above the RPI. Excluding mortgages widens the gap: 2.8 per cent on the LPPI against the 2.5 per cent

RPI rate. Over long periods of time, such differences can be significant, which is why the use of the RPI in uprating wages, benefits and pensions is so dangerous.

It is time that we considered seriously whether the RPI can really perform its multiple functions as a general economic indicator and as a measure of changes in the cost of living of different groups in the population.

If the RPI moves too far from people's experience, public confidence in the official inflation figure could be severely damaged. People may start to believe that there are "lies, damned lies and the RPI".

Yours faithfully, CHRIS POND, Director, Low Pay Unit, Social Charter Campaign, 27/29 Amwell Street, ECI.

### The cause and effect of inflation

From Mr Jonathan Wilson

Sir, The Government has increased bank rates again, for the third time in a row, in the hope of avoiding the boom and bust cycles of the past. They will fail again and in failing will further damage the competitive capability of this country.

They fail to see that it is high interest rates that cause inflation (after a long lag) while corroding confidence. To the extent that floating interest debt is an established part of our economy, interest payments become a fixed cost, though not a fixed amount. This applies to corporations and individuals.

Our human response to increases in fixed cost is normally to seek increased revenue through price increases (wage increases).

At the same time the best defence to any planning investment (in equipment or housing) is to ensure that they cannot forecast the cost.

We have seen repeatedly that the most competitive countries share low inflation and low fixed interest rates.

They do not do this because they are competitive; they are competitive because they do this.

Our Bank and our Government seem unable to identify cause and effect. At the same time they shoot at the wrong targets. A small amount of inflation is not as such a catastrophe. Indeed some inflationary pressure is, like blood pressure, positively beneficial at the right level. Reducing blood pressure by bleeding or killing the patient is not helpful. Small amounts of inflation encourage the use of money because value is placed on things rather than cash and capital expenditure becomes cheaper in the long term as costs fall in real terms.

The Government claims to believe in a free market, but refuses to allow the market to operate freely. Instead they control it inappropriately with a single lever. Tragically it is the wrong one in the wrong hands.

Yours faithfully, JONATHAN WILSON, 5 Foxwarren, Haywards Heath, West Sussex.

### Compensation for Lord Cairns at Warburg

From Mr William A. Croft

Sir, Financial commentators seem to agree that the trouble at Warburg has come about because Lord Cairns wished to merge the company with Morgan Stanley.

As a direct result of that bad decision:

- 1,000 jobs may go.
- Warburg's shares continue their downward spiral.
- Analysts have lowered their profit forecast by £35 million.

Correctly, Lord Cairns has shouldered the blame and has resigned.

Sir David Scholey, War-

burg's chairman, will not comment on Lord Cairns' likely compensation.

In a normal world, one might have thought that it would be the shareholders of Warburg's who were looking to Lord Cairns for compensation.

Yours faithfully, WILLIAM A. CROFT, 6 Butterworth Gardens, Woodford Green, Essex.

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The advertisement features a large, bold title 'The GILT Guide' at the top. Below it, a paragraph describes the guide as a reference manual for investors switching to Government Securities (GILTS), explaining government-linked fixed interest investments, terminology, and types of investors. It states the guide is free to times readers until 7th January 1995. A large, bold number '800 850 661' is prominently displayed. Below this, the company name 'HARGREAVES LANSDOWN ASSET MANAGEMENT LTD' is written, followed by its address 'Embassy House, Clifton, Bristol BS8 1SB'. At the bottom, it mentions 'A Member of FIMBRA'. On the right side, there is a small logo consisting of a stylized 'H' and 'L' inside a square.



## Prices close above their lowest

**TRADING PERIOD:** Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

[illegible]

# Prices close above their lowest

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1994/95				1994/95				1994/95				1994/95			
High	Low	Close	Change	High	Low	Close	Change	High	Low	Close	Change	High	Low	Close	Change
100	99	100	0	100	99	100	0	100	99	100	0	100	99	100	0
101	100	101	1	101	100	101	1	101	100	101	1	101	100	101	1
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## INFOTECH

## When computers learn to say hello

Nobody needs a crystal ball to predict that this year is going to be a good one for anyone in the business of making sticky labels for the personal computer business. Computer boxes now come plastered with messages that proudly proclaim that the contents are EasyStar compliant, have Intel Inside, and are unswervingly Microsoft Windows-ready.

This year, manufacturers have a lot of potentially baffling messages to promote. Stand by for a flood of stickers proclaiming that everything you want to buy, from PC to printer, modem to monitor, is "plug-and-play compatible".

Plug-and-play is a simple idea. All it means is that computers and their peripherals are able to recognise each other without being told. The technology has been around more than a decade on the Apple Macintosh. Set up a Mac, plug in a different printer, an extra hard disc, a CD-ROM and a modem, and the computer will automatically sort out through the connecting cables and talk to each device.

Life is not so simple in the PC world, even with the current version of Microsoft Windows. As anyone who is not an IT expert knows, setting up even a simple printer is a consuming and technical process. You need to tell the computer which particular data port it is going to print through, set up the software drivers for the print output, possibly with tiny DIP switches under the printer... then spend an hour or so trying to work out why the system insists on taking the lines of every screen page and printing them at the top of every single piece of paper.

And printers are the easy part. Adding sound cards and CD-ROM

### David Hewson reports on an answer to incompatible machines

drives can be the stuff of pure nightmare.

The solution could be the plug-and-play technology built into Windows 95 due to be released in August. For the past two years Microsoft has been distributing the technical details of the software routines it has built into its new operating system to equipment manufacturers.

Within the space of a few years, virtually every new peripheral device on the market will boast plug-and-play compatibility. Which sounds wonderful... but will it work?

Apple has been able to make plug-and-play successful largely because it designs and manufactures both the Macintosh hardware and operating system. By contrast, the PC world is bedevilled by a variety of chips and standards that are broadly compatible on most fronts but, on occasion, simply refuse to speak to each other.

One of the first manufacturers to work with Microsoft was NEC, which is now releasing a series of printers, monitors and CD-ROM drives designed to adopt plug-and-play the moment Windows 95 is released.

"With a monitor it will mean you can configure it so that the resolution will automatically change according to the software you use,"

says Alun Williams, product manager for NEC's printers in the UK. "You can, for example, have large type when you are word processing, and then switch to a bigger picture if you are doing graphics work."

The benefits for printing are likely to be even more dramatic. A new range of printers from NEC, which start at about £350 for a monochrome laser model and £900 for a colour system, will automatically adjust the resolution of a printed page to match its content, improving the output appearance of high quality graphics pages without the need for any technical knowledge on the part of the user.

Monitors and printers are probably going to be plug-and-play's first great successes. Other parts of the peripherals business look distinctly less promising. Hard disc drives for PCs use a variety of connection standards which have in common nothing but a love of impenetrable acronyms and deeply technical reference material.

The most difficult area of all is the one where plug-and-play should be at its best — the credit card device standard known as PCMCIA. A variety of PCMCIA devices are now coming on to the market, including modems, CD-ROM interfaces, data cards for digital mobile phones and even tiny hard disc drives.

PCMCIA slots are standard on all new notebook computer models and will begin to appear on new desktop machines soon. You should be able to plug them straight into your machine and see them integrated into the system. But this remains a pipe dream. Depressing tales of incompatibilities between PCMCIA cards from different manufacturers are already starting to appear, and it seems unlikely that Windows 95 will solve them.



Alun Williams: "The resolution on a monitor will automatically change according to the software"

## Delphi improves service

Better access to the Internet

DELPHI Internet, the online information and entertainment service which handles *The Times* electronic area, is to give subscribers better links to the Internet later this year, *Matthew May* writes.

It has signed an agreement with Netscape Communications to use software that will give subscribers full access to the fastest growing part of the Internet — the World Wide Web. A whole range of organisations and individuals have set up pages on the Web, which can include pictures, graphics and text.

Each page can also be set up to include links to any other information available on the system without the user needing to know the electronic address or even which country the information may be coming from.

Delphi, which is a subsidiary of News International, publisher of *The Times*, says it is rebuilding its online service to include the latest developments on the Internet, such as audio and video.

The British arm of the company, Delphi UK, is shortly expected to introduce a separate new service that will give customers the ability to send or receive up to 1,000 electronic mail messages a month from anywhere in the world for £5 per month.

## Apple slices

NEER, Japan's top audio equipment maker, says it will make personal computers by combining Apple's Macintosh software with its own audio-video technology. It will be the first Japanese company to produce Macintosh-compatible PCs. It plans to start selling them by the end of next year. The computers will come in two models, and will operate both on compact discs and laser discs with the help of built-in audio equipment.

## new chapter

POWERFUL tool for those looking for books is available on the Internet. The Internet Bookshop has an index of 100 books searchable by author, title or subject. To the user, the service gives publishers for putting information in the electronic bookshop. Those who want an account can order it. It can be found at [www.bookshop.co.uk](http://www.bookshop.co.uk)

## seven

world's most industrial countries are meeting in Seoul next weekend to discuss the "information society" issues such as safeguarding privacy and ensuring network security. The Group of Seven ministers' conference will also discuss a host of chief executives of the world's major elec-



IRANIAN authorities are to remove tens of thousands of satellite dishes in the country after a parliamentary ban on the equipment received final approval on Wednesday. The ban gives satellite users one month to take down their

dishes and related equipment or face legal action. Over the past few years thousands of Iranian households, bored by state television, have installed satellite dishes which are smuggled into the country.

## Under attack

IT IS trouble all the way for Microsoft at the moment. Not only has a US judge rejected the anti-trust settlement agreed between the company and the US Justice Department, but the giant software company is also being sued by Apple.

Apple is claiming the company illegally appropriated a software code that improves the quality of video in multimedia applications. It is seeking an injunction that would

## The End?

AN "interactive film", where the audience gets to choose the ending, starts in 50 American cinemas today. The audience will pay \$5 to spend 20 minutes in a cinema with seats equipped with red, green and yellow buttons on the arms. The audience get to choose what kind of punishment should be doled out to a corrupt politician, a womaniser or a white supremacist, casting their votes by pushing

the buttons. A computer will tabulate the results and then end the film accordingly.

## Beware Mario

THE French EU Commissioner, Edith Cresson, has proposed a special tax on telecommunications services to help Europe to fend off competition from American and Asian giants. "Europe is as threatened culturally and industrially as much by the education software and programs of Nintendo and Microsoft as by American television series," she said in a letter to Marcelino Oreja, the EU Culture Commissioner.

She said a tax of 0.5 per cent, to be collected nationally, would make available £460 million to go into a national fund to make educational and training programmes.

## Super-chip

NEC, the Japanese electronics firm, says it has developed the world's first one gigabit dynamic random access memory (DRAM) chip, able to hold a billion bits of information, in a bid to take the initiative in the competitive multimedia market. The next generation chip, with a memory capacity 64 times bigger than that of existing chips, will not be ready to go on sale until at least 1998.

Each chip is capable of containing information that is equivalent to 4,000 newspapers, four hours of compact disc sound, or 15 minutes of video images.

Infotech is edited by Matthew May. E-mail address: [matt@timesdelphi.com](mailto:matt@timesdelphi.com)

## Supermarket offers shoppers the chance to scan their own groceries

REDUCE the amount of high-tech equipment surrounding the supermarket checkout, the biggest problem customers remain the queues to get to it. Safeways report that even determined shoppers occasionally give up on busy days when they estimate it will take to pay for their shopping — anathema to supermarket chains.

Next month, Safeways is to test one potential answer, a "self-scanning" system where shoppers scan the code of each item into a table unit before they place it in their trolley. It gives a running total of the bill, and if change their minds items be deselected by rescanning them and clicking a minus button.

One hundred customers at the Safeways store in Solihull, West Midlands, will be able to use the scanners, which can be clipped to the trolley or held in the hand. When customers have finished, instead of having to empty and refill the trolley at a checkout they plug the scanner into a computer system that prints out a receipt, which can be taken to a special cashier for payment.

## Farewell to the checkout queue

To deter anybody who thinks self-scanning may be an opportunity to reduce their weekly shopping bill, those using the scanners will be subject to random checks where their shopping will be rescanned by a cashier.

"If a major discrepancy is found, customers will be taken through the correct method of using the scanner to ensure that they understand how it works," say the developers of the system, Symbol Technologies.

In order to use the scanners, customers will have to register for a special card that logs their name and address, the scanner for use.

By linking that information to what is purchased Safeways will be able to produce detailed customer profiles so that it knows exactly who purchased what and when. This could then be used for targeting special discounts, or even producing a suggested shopping list when a customer next uses the scanner.

Safeways says that it expects the system to be in 50 or 60 stores by the end of the year.

MATTHEW MAY



Symbol Technologies portable personal scanner in action

## State Contracts Control Board Request for Proposal (RFP)

Digital Imaging GS System (DIGS) for New South Wales Department of Mineral Resources

The Department of Mineral Resources wishes to implement state of the art image management mass storage and communications systems in conjunction with an appropriate GUI based data access system and bureau conversion services, to manage the Department's unique and comprehensive technical/scientific mining and exploration report collection.

The proposal seeks in four parts: a Prime Contractor, an Imaging System Communications Infrastructure and Report Conversion Service. ITS 94/21160.

A copy of the RFP document may be obtained for \$100 AUS from Information Technology Service, Level 9, 1 Francis Street, Darlinghurst, NSW, Australia 2010. For further information please contact: Turg Bahadri, Special Projects Advisor/ITS, on +61-2-539-7714, or Fax: +61-2-332-2640. Closing date for responses is 9.30 am, 17 March 1995.

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

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Why? Because we've successfully blended a Californian work culture with British professionalism. Based in Hemel Hempstead our UK product development division is an autonomous part of the \$1 billion 3Com Corporation headquartered in Santa Clara in the heart of silicon valley. As you'd expect we are at the leading edge of the rapidly growing IT industry with current developments including Graphical Network Management applications, high speed switching, ATM, and Fast Ethernet.

We strive to be the best in our chosen field on a worldwide stage and invest significantly in the latest tools and training for our engineers. We're looking for enthusiastic engineers who are committed to getting results and delivering on target. We're offering outstanding career opportunities in an exciting fast moving technology for people who share our passion for achieving success.

## Senior Hardware Development Engineers c. £30,000

These roles represent an excellent opportunity to work at the forefront of technology designing and developing the next generation hardware for LAN hub products. There are several hardware development opportunities ranging from new product design through providing sustaining engineering support for existing products, offering a variety of work on long and short term development projects. In many cases you will be expected to be the development project leader within a multi-disciplined product team which takes the product from conception to final market delivery. You'll have ample opportunity to contribute to the many aspects of the product life cycle and will be expected to liaise closely with colleagues from marketing and manufacturing. In some projects there will be opportunity to work with engineering colleagues in other 3Com divisions in Ireland, Israel and the USA.

You must have a good degree in Electrical Engineering or a related Engineering or Science subject and 5 to 8 years' experience in high speed digital design preferably in a volume product development environment. Experience in project leading and familiarity with sound design methodology is essential including CAE design and simulation tools. Experience of designing to meet product safety and regulatory requirements such as UL and EMC standards is required. Knowledge of LAN protocols is an advantage. Most importantly we're looking for the right blend of personal and leadership qualities that will deliver significant contribution as an individual as well as within a team. Ref: PD910/TT.

## Embedded Software Development Engineers

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Networks That Go The Distance



# Giants are back in the frame

Time's winged chariot is particularly hard on technical accomplishments. A chariot mechanic would find little work in a modern vehicle workshop. In information technology, the transition from top-flight chariot engineer to outdated feller is often abrupt.

In consequence, IT specialists often try to add new skills to their repertoire to protect their future employment prospects. As they do so, the old skills inevitably decline. Little sentiment has attached to this loss. As with the Welsh language, the disappearance of mainframe Cobol from the world's stock of literature would not be widely regarded as a tragedy in the English-speaking world.

One of the curiosities of the IT job market in recent months, however, has been the revival of demand for experience of what are slightly known as legacy systems. These old and impressively large mainframe systems were thought to have had their day. Their capacity for work, awesome in its time, had been overtaken by more modern technol-

## David Guest finds a legacy of opportunity in 'old' technology

ogy. Alas, some of the sprightly new technology has been found wanting and faith in some of the more advanced of them has waned.

As a result, some companies have decided to continue to operate and develop their older systems. But they have not found it easy to trace appropriately skilled individuals, most of whom have dispersed or retired.

When the credit-reference agency Infolink, subsequently absorbed into Equifax Europe, wanted up to ten people who knew the Unisys A Series computers inside out, recruitment agencies told them that the search was likely to be fruitless.

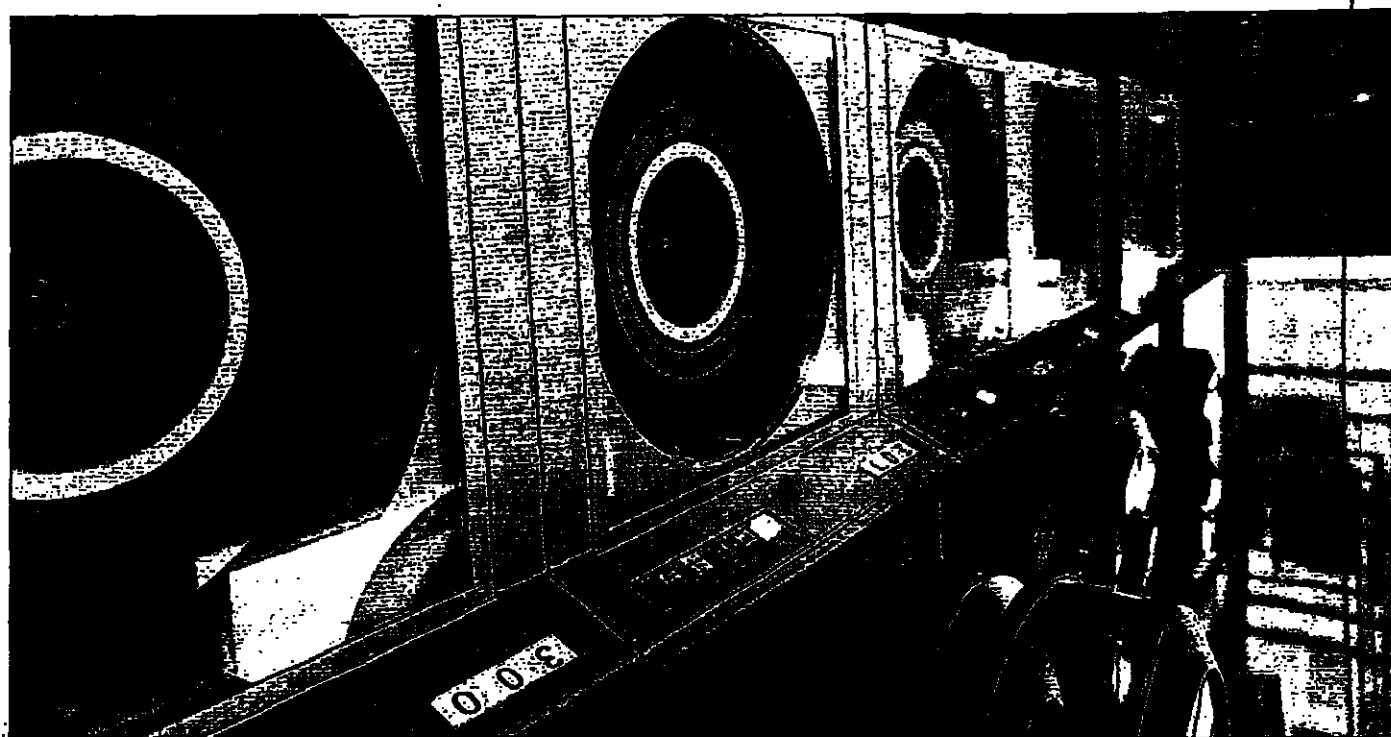
Infolink wanted contract analysts/programmers with skills in Cobol and the Unisys database system DMS II. Cobol varies on

different manufacturers' mainframes, and DMS II is an older-style hierarchical database specific to Unisys.

Two of the more enterprising agencies suggested a compromise: take people with experience of other mainframes and cross-train them.

Barbara Mitchell, development manager at Equifax, says: "I knew it was a concept that would work because I've done something similar myself. The three main things anyone switching environments must learn and understand quite quickly are database access methods, editing and job control. The differences in Cobol are not major."

She appointed the Croydon-based recruitment and software services agency Gamon Consulting Group to organise the project. Jon Tyler, Gamon's managing director, says: "We advertised and got mainly ICZ Cobol people and some ex-Sperry (with Burroughs, one of the constituent parts of Unisys). They spent five days training at Unisys in Milton Keynes and all passed the tests. Nine were immediately offered roles by Infolink."



Old and impressively large mainframes are still in use but the skilled individuals needed to run them are becoming difficult to find.

Mark Preece, a freelance software specialist, was one of the graduates of the cross-training exercise and he is now some way into a 12-month contract with Equifax. "I've 15 years experience in IT, in all sorts of environments and roles, but mostly from the Sperry side," he says.

"I'd been working overseas and I came back to Britain to find the number of Sperry mainframe sites had diminished and there were fewer places to work."

Mr Preece believes that cross-training is a straightforward and realistic option for people with the right temperament. "In some cases the differences between computer systems can be radical, but in principle they all have the same elements. The operating system is where the learning curve comes in.

File structures can also vary widely, but a file is a file. Often all you have to do is learn the terminology."

He stresses, though, that practical and immediate application of new skills is vital. "It's no good going on a course and then sitting at home for six months."

"Pay rates at first were not as good as if you had five or six years' experience, but it was still a

reasonable rate for going into a new area."

He will not rely on his mainframe skills to provide his term meal ticket. "I don't think I should jump on the bandwagon of every new software package launched, but there is a probably five years - in my knowledge becomes out of date. I hope to be in Oracle relational database products in a year."

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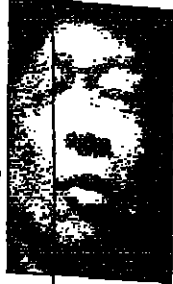
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**ALBUMS page 34**  
The latest new release  
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# ARTS

**POP page 35**

Eric Clapton in concert  
in Glasgow: the blues,  
the whole blues and  
nothing but the blues



## Nights at the round table



Topps and landings: there is enough flying for half a dozen *Peter Pans* in Graham Vick's witty and enchanting production of *King Arthur*, due at Covent Garden in May

Purcell's so-called "semi-operas" have long been considered a problem, if not an embarrassment. *King Arthur* is designated "a dramatick operbut is no such thing: it is a play-Dryden with musical episodes often comically introduced. 'Hire a crew of Kentish lads and lasses you'd entertain ye till your lorum' is the blandly unapologetic for one divertimento. It past much effort has gone into the piece palatable to modern audiences: there have been corrections with or without lineations: performances of Purcell music with goblets of Dr even wholesale rewriting to make more like a real opera. It seem have occurred to nobody with memory to perform *King Arthur* as Dryden and Purcell could it, which is what the Th Musical de Paris have done in production with the Royal Op works perfectly.

### Paris has done Henry Purcell proud with a sumptuous new staging of his patriotic semi-opera. Rodney Milnes reports

That is, of course, being falsely naive: you need an excuse like the composer's tercentenary to go to the expense of engaging a huge company of actors, dancers, singers and musicians and then putting them into the sort of lavish production expected at the time. The resulting spectacle lasts for four hours, no longer than a serious *Hamlet* or a *Lohengrin*, but more than you expect for what is supposed to be only a semi-opera. But the eight performances at the Châtelet have long been sold-out, and last Sunday's matinee was greeted with unbridled rapture. A remark overheard on the way out — "Moi, je préfère *Butterfly*" — was clearly a minority report.

The play is a delight. Scholars of the period may well find a hidden agenda in Dryden's action. British

Arthur and Saxon Oswald, each with a full complement of supernatural aides-de-fairly-camp, fight both for the country and the hand of blind Emmeline. At the behest of Merlin they are reconciled — "Britons and Saxons shall be once one People, one

**King Arthur**  
Théâtre du Châtelet

common faith, one common tongue". It is an agenda scarcely calculated to appeal to Euro-sceptics, but fair enough as a cue for the patriotic finale.

Dryden leaves the heroics with wit as dry as it is sly, a wit matched by Graham Vick in his entrancing

is enough flying for half a dozen *Peter Pans*.

Especially delightful are the Cold Genius and his entourage of sneezing polar bears, the jumping-jack Harlequins, horripitating Fishermen, and ballet of little box-hedge plants. The vision of future British Worthies, half of them airborne over the White Cliffs of Dover, includes a suffragette, a boy scout, a bobby and even, earthbound but singing beautifully, Celia Johnson and Trevor Howard.

There is never anything remotely precious about William Christie's period music-making: the sound from Les Arts Florissants is warm, richly coloured and vigorous. Most important, Christie ensures that there is never an inch of space between play and music: the speed of the performance makes this the shortest four hours on record. And Christie's conducting of Véronique Gens singing *Fairest Isle* is alone worth the price of a ticket when *King Arthur* visits Covent Garden in May.

### CONCERTS

## Skiff misses the tide of inspiration

**Sinfonia 21/  
Brabbins**  
Queen Elizabeth Hall

REALISING that their original label does not have the cachet it might have had, had the docklands dream come true, the Docklands Sinfonia has changed its name to Sinfonia 21.

The group's programmes are out of the ordinary. This one began with the London premiere of John Casken's *Daring the Skiff*; then came a postwar masterpiece, Lutoslawski's *Paroles tissées* of 1965, and then a triple homage to Purcell, Britten and Tippett — songs by the first of those composers arranged by the second and third.

And finally there was a slightly strange memorial to Bernstein, his arrangement of Beethoven's C sharp minor String Quartet, Op 131. Such music was conceived with the intention that its protagonists should react with each other. Martyn Brabbins, wielding his baton efficiently more than inspirationally, did his best, but could not re-create artificially the interaction of individuals.

Perhaps it was that lack of inspiration which turned the

London premiere of Casken's work, written for the Northern Sinfonia in 1992-93, into such a disappointment. This is plainly a complex, thoughtful and at times very beautiful, if conservative, score, and surely it should not have sounded quite as wooden. Or is there really something foursquare and unpleasing in its rhythms and phrase structures?

Fortunately Thomas Randle was on hand to give the most pleasure of the evening, first in Lutoslawski's darkly beautiful setting of Jean-François Chabrun's four tapestries and then, with the pianist Julian Rohon, in the four Purcell settings, all chosen with an eye on the fact that this was St Valentine's Day. He inspired Sinfonia 21 to their best form of the evening in the Lutoslawski.

STEPHEN PETTITT

## Sisters in song

**Felicity Lott/  
Ann Murray**  
Barbican

THE Felicity Lott/Ann Murray partnership is popular in France, Germany, Austria and Italy, as well as this country, and about to take New York by storm. No wonder, as Graham Johnson engagingly put it, they didn't dare cancel their Barbican date, even though both were under the weather.

We were hardly short-changed by either singer's vocal indisposition, and in any case such holding back as there might have been was easily compensated by their stage act. For the last item of the first half, the Cat Duet (formerly attributed to Rossini), for instance, the whole repertoire of feline (read primadonna-ish) antics was deployed.

The first item after the interval was Brahms's rather more sedate treatment of the theme of sibling rivalry: *Die Schwestern* (The Sisters). In the song the sisters revel in their solidarity — until it is discovered they love the same man. So Lott and Murray cooed their hilariously complacent way through four stanzas before the revelation.

It was not all frivolity, however. Both Brahms and Mendelssohn penned some of their most exquisite melodies in the duet genre, and full justice was done equally to the former's sublime setting of Goethe's *Phädon* and to a group of the latter's pieces, including the *Volkslied* (Burns) and Heine's *Abendlied*. Other beauties were Gounod's *D'un cœur qui s'aime* and Fauré's *Plieurs d'or*. Johnson's immaculate piano playing was a feature of the whole recital.

For me the only blemish on the programme was the misguided inclusion of a Purcell group. Even in Britten's anachronistic settings, there is surely something wrong when Purcell's *Lost is my quiet for ever* could pass for a duet from *Lakmé*.

BARRY MILLINGTON

THEATRE: A patchy quintet of new plays by women; and Ken Campbell at his anarchic best

## Listen with mother

As disappointing quintet derives from an idea that must have sounded gotten it came up at a confab in NW3. Let's ask of female writers for shrews "about alienation, abhorring a woman in the 1990s", the two come being synonymous, at to opinion-makers in Swotage.

is what Jenny Topper. Head's artistic director, de to do, with results that she surprised her. There are raging plays about whithering among the five first, no sardonic comedies at office discrimination. "Use who came through," TD exclaims in the programme, "all had written abhorring a mother!"

is a salutary reminder than women have more urgent concerns than he fathers and irksome betes. It is also interesting thral plays show mothering their progeny. Thred to be possessive, malitutive and pushy, for res nese dramatists have limbo or inclination to anle. Even the straightest dai spills her daughter's weeping by telling her that a transvestite. Of these two plays, Edmundson's is the weightier, for it suggests that the woman in the case is the victim both of a dourly religious upbringing and of male incomprehension. *Mind the Gap* leaves its audience no room for speculation, determined as it is to flog



Helen Baxendale performs Sara Sugarman's *An Epic Ouch!*, one of a quintet of new plays in *Bearing Fruit*

**Bearing Fruit**  
Hampstead

ness. In Meredith Oakes's *Mind the Gap* she is a twittering ninny taking her 14-year-old son to a shrink, and in *Coventry Carol* by Helen Edmundson she is one stage madder, a mother so determined her daughter will be Mary in the school nativity play she threatens mayhem and, maybe, commits murder. Of these two plays, Edmundson's is the weightier, for it suggests that the woman in the case is the victim both of a dourly religious upbringing and of male incomprehension. *Mind the Gap* leaves its audience no room for speculation, determined as it is to flog

the notion that this shrill Wimbledon lady is more in need of a psychiatrist than the sullen youth.

I was internally imploring Oakes to stop long before the Tube in which her people were travelling reached Putney, but still she went on, caricaturing away. That was not the trouble with Sara Sugarman's brief *Epic Ouch!*, a self-consciously poetic monologue in which a Welshwoman (Helen Baxendale) gives birth to a dead child, or with *Dark Afternoon Tea* by a Lebanese writer, Hanan Al-Shaykh. This involves a Beirut mother at sea in London, and shows talent for characterisation. But it, too, left me cold.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

## Nothing in life is beyond our Ken

**Mystery Bruises**  
King's Head

Ken Campbell, formerly of Gants Hill and now freely roaming the multiverse, is a man unique, an asset and adornment to the nation. If he had grown up in Japan he would already be labelled a National Treasure: disciples would climb the 999 steps to his mountain retreat and come tumbling down again, shouting with laughter. Since this is Britain, the mountain comes to us, or at least to this pub theatre in Islington, where for the next three weeks audiences can accompany him on what he describes, boldly but accurately, as a journey to the edge of knowledge.

Campbell doesn't need Forster to murmur "Only connect" in his lug-hole. It is soon made abundantly clear that in Campbellian reality everything connects with everything else. Starting off with the unaccountable mystery of abandoned hub-caps, we are swiftly introduced to parallel universes — visually illustrated by the interaction of two canisters of exploding foam — and from there the journey is only a couple of stops away from St Dominic bouncing Bibles to refute the Cathars. By way of Halifax, Nova Scotia, we reach the Emperor Constantine, and so to the laughter of Jesus as recorded in a work we might doubt exists were it not held up in front of us, *The 2nd Treatise of the Great Seth*.

Next we reach something called pneumatic chemistry, and learn the disconcerting properties of the air loom, before somehow arriving at Watford Palace in the late 1960s, when it was run by

Giles Havergal, and where Campbell's lunatic audition speech must surely have influenced Havergal to leave at once for the Glasgow Citizens'.

*Mystery Bruises* is the most recent of Campbell's quintet of solo shows and is fired, like the others, by his habit of "supposing". Open your mind, he is saying, clapping two hands on his gleaming cranium and breaking them apart, like a disintegrating pink butterfly. He himself seems open to every stray thought, and though their sequence may appear random he weaves them into an invigorating (and blissfully funny) panegyric on the mad marvels of subatomic physics.

This is where the show links up with his three-part television series, *Reality on the Rocks* (Sundays on Channel 4). Along with his foam canisters, a shopping trolley packed with curious books, his stage properties include a large colour photo of himself with Professor Stephen Hawking, backed by a flock of ruminating cows. The account of his interviews with Hawking and other toilers in the field of quantum mechanics is hilarious.

For close on two and a half hours Campbell's wit, enthusiasm and bushy eyebrows keep the theatre entranced. Long may the canister of his mind keep foaming.

JEREMY KINGSTON

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Where were you in '62? John Mayall would like to know ... the etymology of teen hysteria ... King Eric's latest crusade

# No fuel like an old fuel

When it comes to British blues, John Mayall wrote the book — or, at any rate, he is getting material for it. Paul Sexton reports

If you are among the millions to have been part of a John Mayall gig since he first trod the boards professionally, somewhere around 1962, then Britain's premier blues ambassador wants to hear from you.

With an attention to detail more normally associated with librarians than beat musicians, Mayall carries one of those bound folders full of loose-leaf pages. Ask him something about a credit on his new record and he will turn to the appropriate page. Fire off an inquiry about last year's European tour, and he'll go straight to the entry that tells him he played Dublin right before Cleveland. But ask him about how many gigs he has played in more than 30 years as this country's most respected bluesman, and he confesses to a flaw in the system.

"I've never been able to figure that," says the elegantly greying 61-year-old. "In 1979, my house burnt down and all my records went. But I have been trying to piece it together, with a view to a possible autobiography later on. I've made out these blank sheets of all these years, and from newspaper articles, adverts in the paper or whatever source, I've been able to narrow it down."

So if that was you in the front row at the Twisted Wheel club in Manchester when Mayall first became a local star with the Blues Syndicate, or if you still have that ticket stub from a Bluesbreakers gig at Klok's Kleek in Hampstead, then make yourself known.

Such meticulous documentation is typical of the disciplined passion that Mayall still injects into both his live and recorded work. His latest album, *Spinning Coin*, is a worthy successor to 1993's *Wake Up Call*, putting a fresh gloss on the conventional blues paintwork. For its part, *Wake Up Call* sold

close to 250,000 copies, was nominated for a Grammy for Best Contemporary Blues Album and even notched up a week in the UK album chart, his first trip there since 1971.

With his trusty Hammond organ still in full working order, Mayall's singing voice has never been better. *Spinning Coin* also marks the recording initiation of a new Bluesbreaker, guitarist Buddy Whittington, who has the difficult task of assuming the mantle of Mayall protégé worn famously in

the group's boom years by the likes of Eric Clapton, Peter Green and Mick Taylor.

"Buddy had a band called the Sidemen in Dallas," Mayall says. "They opened up for us at a gig we did there two-and-a-half years ago, and I was very taken with him. I don't usually do this, but I grabbed

his phone number. When Coco Montoya left the Bluesbreakers I called Buddy. He thought somebody was playing a game on him. He was driving his car and his drummer passed the word on. He said to Buddy over the phone, 'Are you driving?' Buddy said: 'Yeah'. He said: 'Pull over...'"

Whittington passes the driving test on *Spinning Coin* with ease, twanging up a storm on Jim Lauderdale's *When The Devil Starts Crying* and adeptly changing down through the gears on David Grissom's *What Passes For Love*. The album's lyrical content, with five Mayall compositions, also knocks spots off the woke-up-this-morning brigade.

The journalistic cliché of the Bluesbreakers as some kind of rock academy only annoys Mayall, he says, when people overlook his own contribution to the group. But the 1960s cast a long shadow: during our conversation, he took a call from former Cream lyricist Pete



Got them old brought my trusty guitar to play but can't find nowhere to plug it in blues, mama: still, at least John Mayall can't complain about any shortage of drums

Brown about Mayall's possible involvement in a tribute record for Green.

Nevertheless, he speaks generously of Clapton's subsequent achievements. Indeed, Mayall applauds the fact that "Slowhand" was able to take a body of traditional blues songs all the way to No 1 on his most recent album, *From The Cradle*.

"I got to see him in Los Angeles, and it was a great show. He's done those tunes close to the original, which doesn't leave that much room for Eric's individuality, and yet his stamp is all over it because he's unmistakable. Success like that really helps everybody. All

blues players think of each other as part of a big family, we're all working in the same cause to spread the cause of the blues. Anyone who reaches a high prominence, it rubs off.

"It's the same when Bonnie Raitt got all her Grammy awards; even though it wasn't a blues album that made it, she has a blues background and that drew people to John Lee Hooker and all the other people she admires and works with."

Mayall did not sign his first significant record deal until he was 30, but next month marks the thirtieth anniversary of the release of his first album, *John Mayall*

*Plays John Mayall*, released during the British blues boom, although he did not sell many records until the summer of 1966, when *Blues Breakers* hit the Top Ten.

Mayall looks over his shoulder with some pleasure. "It's very nice to have that backlog of working with some of the great people, many of whom are not around anymore, and it's great to have been part of the history of British music."

"We were right there at the beginning of it all, which is something nobody who wasn't

there could ever know about. It's been a very exciting life."

But he draws almost as much satisfaction from the fact that the band is breaking the blues in new places. For example, as his trusty folder confirms, last year saw the band visiting Tel Aviv for the first time. The demand to see them is unquenched: on consecutive nights, that date in Israel was preceded by appearances in Berlin and Helsinki and followed by shows in Italy, Sweden and Norway.

And, in what by its very structure can be the most repetitive of music forms, the Mayall of the blues species is still bubbling over with ideas. "To me it's a never-ending

source of inspiration. Just go to your record collection. On a lead-belly record I can maybe hear one thing, one particular line, take that one line and make a whole song out of it."

"It's all available. All you've got to do is take that as your source inspiration and turn it into a more contemporary format. It's easy to do as long as you're telling your story."

*Spinning Coin* is released by Silverstone on Monday. John Mayall and the Bluesbreakers play the Astoria, London (May 15); Sheffield Leadmill (May 16); Wolverhampton Civic Hall (May 17); Newcastle Riverside (May 18) and Glasgow King Tuts (May 19)

## We all scream for I scream

The Beatles! Bros!  
Take That! What do they have in common?  
The teenager's adoration of herself

Pop music has one classic noise, one ultimate soundtrack that neither the Beatles, the Smiths, Abba nor Take That have anything to do with. It has no lyrics, but it kick-started several revolutions: it has no rhythm but dance-music has made millions from it; it's been on *Top of the Pops* but the cameras weren't focusing on it. It drove the Beatles mad, and to compete with it they started writing *Sgt. Pepper*; it ruined Abba's marriages and was probably partly responsible for their heinous beards and blue eyeshadow; and it broke world records at the *Smash Hits* Poll Winner's party last December, when Take That stepped onstage.

If music crosses all boundaries, all nations, all cultures, then this is its Esperanto. It is the Scream.

It's the one thing teenage girls do really, really well. Speaking as a teenage girl — just — I feel perfectly justified in confessing that teenage girls are rubbish at putting on make-up; haven't the foggiest idea how to have a relationship; and are, in general, completely in the dark when it comes to the subtle nuances of Wittgenstein's philosophy.

But when it comes to screaming, all angles are covered. Whether it be the desperate, fluted, ululating wailing that comes from the throat through the nose, or the great, dry whuddering roar reminiscent of American Big Trucks going into reverse — the desperate hoarse sob that rises into a screech at the sight of Robbie out of Take That; or the endless hysterical, hair-pulling, face-clawing explosion Paul McCartney's hair once inspired — teenage girls have the market cornered.

For years, pop commentators thought teenage girls screamed at pop stars because they were desperate to meet their heroes; they were worshipping their frenzy; they were only way you can at Wembley Stadium with 79,999 other fans all howling at the top of their lungs. None of this is true. Teenage girls are screaming at themselves.

Walking among the audience at the *Smash Hits* party I was struck by how little the Take That fans (dressed in Take That T-shirts, waving Take That banners and screaming at Take That



Gimme an M. Gimme an E. Put them together and what have you got?

endless) actually wanted to meet their heroes; let alone indulge in the offers that their banners proclaimed they were more than up for.

The fans' obsession with the band had very little to do with the music, or the hunkiness themselves. Rather, it was a convenient fixation-point that could be used to have something in common with their peer group. Conversations about the band are very rarely about the band. They are about the fans: how the band make them feel; how they get turned on when Howard does this; how they can relate to Gary dancing like a polar bear with his paw in a splint.

Pop stars are mere ciphers: the real object of worship for the screaming teenage girl is herself. With every hormonal squawk, teenage girls are celebrating themselves — the fact that they have their entire lives ahead of them; that they are still young enough to have wild crushes; that they are with friends and having the night of their lives and, perhaps, that they are luckier than their heroes.

They have no itinerary, no schedule. If they get a cold they can bunk off school for the day and comfort themselves with *This Morning* and endless mugs of soup. If one of Take That gets a cold, they will still, in all probability, have to strap on their bottom-revealing leather

trousers at 9pm and gyrate for two hours, dribbly nose or not.

In the most wonderful way, pop stars are incidental to the act of teenage hysteria. They are merely a convenient slide-show, a handy lightning conductor for an intense period of self-discovery by their fans.

The problems begin when pop stars don't acknowledge this fact, and believe that the fans will love the band whatever they do. Avant-garde jazz-fusion album? East 17 *Unplugged* session? All of Take That finding religion and growing beards?

I could get an hour's worth of jokes out of all these eventualities but, for the fans, it would be a gross betrayal of the unspoken contract between pop band and devotee, which is: Thou shalt be there for my amusement.

As soon as pop songwriters start trying to "find themselves" or "become more experimental", they cease to reflect the lives of their fans, and therefore cease to sell records. However many millions East 17 earn, however many hundreds of thousands of people Take That play to every night, the person in the real position of power is the teenage fan in Row 47, screaming.

And in those screams there is, perhaps, a note a triumph.



CAITLIN MORAN

CONCERTS: Clapton's serious case of the blues; Woodstock's safe Havens

## Woke up this mourning

Eric Clapton  
SECC, Glasgow

IF EVER a musician has reverted to type it is Eric Clapton. The man who 30 years ago quit The Yardbirds because their increasingly "commercial" approach went against his puritanical obsession with the blues, only to become a middle-of-the-road superstar himself, has returned to the original source of his inspiration. And how. At this curtain-raising event prior to the start of his 12-night residency at the Albert Hall on Sunday, Clapton gave us the blues, the whole blues and nothing but the blues.

Evidently buoyed up by the success of *From The Cradle*, the collection of old blues songs which last year became his first album to top the charts in both Britain and America, Clapton made absolutely no concessions in his choice of material. Anyone who had bought their £22 ticket in the hope of hearing *Wonderful Tonight* and *Sunshine Of Your Love* was in for a rude awakening.

The show followed a similar pattern to those of two years ago at the Albert Hall, starting with the musicians seated and armed with acoustic instruments only. Clapton set off on a brisk canter through *Mother*

*erless Child*, Robert Johnson's *From Four Till Late* and Leroy Carr's *How Long*. The sound thickened as he moved on to Homer Harris's *I'm Gonna Cut Your Head*, a jaunty, gutbucket stomp despite its forbidding lyric, and the mood gradually darkened as they set about the heavy grumbling groove of Howlin' Wolf's *Forty Four* and Muddy Water's *Standin' Round Cryin'*, which prompted a ferociously blueswailing harmonica solo from Jerry Portnoy.

Whether or not you accept Clapton's credentials as a blues singer — and, frankly, it does require a certain suspension of disbelief when hearing him tackle lyrics about getting a job in the steel yard and being unable to "keep decent clothes to wear" — he has a pleasing tone and an unfailingly soulful delivery.

But there is no room for doubt about his prowess as a guitarist, either emotionally or technically, and as the set built to an increasingly intense pitch he pulled out several solos which more than just-



No Layla, no Wonderful Tonight, no I Shot The Sheriff as Eric Clapton shamelessly feeds his age-old blues habit

fied his status as the most distinguished instrumentalist in rock.

During the long, sorrowful finale of Otis Rush's *Double Trouble*, he twisted a succession of notes through impossible arcs; and his solo in Willie Dixon's *Groanin'* *The Blues* was beyond driven — a torrent of high, keening notes sustained with that massive left-hand vibrato he seems to apply so effortlessly.

The only broadly familiar songs he played were *Hoochie Coochie Man*, *I've Got My Mojo Working* and a version of *Crossroads* rearranged to sound like Willie And The

*Handjive*. He played none of his own songs, let alone any hits, and the sheer concentration of such uncompromising material over a two-hour stretch proved too much for some people. While there were no calls for *Layla* there was a steady trickle towards the exits during the last few numbers.

Be that as it may, this was an undiluted recital of the music Clapton was born to play, and he did it brilliantly. Perhaps he will lose a few fairweather fans, but that's a small price to pay for finding himself.

DAVID SINCLAIR

## Reminders of Freedom

Richie Havens  
Jazz Café, NW1

NOBODY, including Richie Havens, could remember when he last played in Britain. "But it's been a helluva long tour," he said, to impress upon us the fact that there had been no lulling in the interim. "It started in December 1967 and it still hasn't come to an end."

And although — ironically perhaps — he has supplemented his income in recent years by doing voice-overs for commercials on American television, the spirit of those far-off days of peace, love and anti-materialism still linger convincingly about this heavily bearded, sage-like figure. Now 54, the man who opened the bill at the original Woodstock proved during this one-off London show to have made virtually no concessions to the various musical or political fashions that have evolved in the interim.

He still gravitates towards material — written, in the main, by others — that is either introspective, about relationships,

or acutely sociological. And still he gains impact by underplaying his drama, proffering the songs in an intimate, almost conversational manner. And, of course, he continues to frame all he sings in the rich, percussive tones of his acoustic guitar, the unique open chords in their E tuning building inexorably towards crescendos of near-flamenco intensity.

And all the while he sits there, inscrutable and benign, whether dovetailing Van Morrison's *Tupelo Hon-*

*ey* into Dylan's *Just Like A Woman* or working his way gently through Sting's *They Dance Alone*.

With sympathetic accompaniment from the guitarist to his right and the keyboard player to his left, this was an evening of low-key pleasures. A Beatles original, *Here Comes The Sun*, proved safe territory: "it's the only happy song I know," he observed, before performing it in a version near-identical to that which provided him with his sole US Top 20 entry back in 1971.

The vintage Fleetwood Mac hit *Dreams* was gently reclaimed too, the modest delivery erasing memories of Stevie Nicks twirling endlessly through mystical clouds of dry ice. Such moments underlined what Havens remains best at: a kind of quiet thoughtfulness achieved by few more recent artists.

ALAN JACKSON







# Appeal to VAT tribunal from commissioners' discretion

**John Dee Ltd v Commissioners of Customs and Excise**  
Before Mr Justice Turner  
[Judgment February 13]

The jurisdiction of a value-added tax tribunal on an appeal under section 40(1)(a) of the Value Added Tax Act 1983 from a discretionary decision of commissioners was not supervisory but appellate. A hearing before the tribunal was in the nature of an appeal simpliciter and did not give a right to a rehearing.

Once a tribunal was satisfied that an original decision was erroneous it should allow the appeal and leave the commissioners to make a fresh decision on the facts as they were at the time of that fresh decision.

Mr Justice Turner said in the Queen's Bench Division in a reserved judgment allowing an appeal by John Dee Ltd from a decision of the VAT tribunal released on October 11, 1993. The tribunal had dismissed an appeal against a notice dated January 10, 1992 by which the commissioners had required John Dee Ltd to provide security under the provisions of paragraph 5(2) of Schedule 7 to the 1983 Act.

Mr Robert Englehart, QC and Mr Adam Lewis for John Dee Ltd; Mr Peter Mantle for the commissioners.

MR JUSTICE TURNER said that although the chairman of the tribunal

was correct to find that the commissioners had misdirected themselves in law by failing to seek financial information where the position relating to the requirement for security was unclear, he nevertheless went on to uphold the decision because he considered that he was entitled to, and did decide whether the original decision would have been affected if those matters not taken into account had been considered.

Mr Englehart contended that the chairman of the tribunal misconceived the nature of his jurisdiction; purported to apply to the appeal to a VAT tribunal a principle that was applicable to a judicial review in public law rather than to an appeal under the provisions of the 1983 Act; that even if such a principle were applicable he misapplied it; that he failed to take account of evidence of facts material to the decision which he had to make and which had occurred subsequent to the date of the admittedly flawed decision.

That argument raised two principal issues of law. First, what was the true nature of the jurisdiction of the VAT tribunal on an appeal from a discretionary decision of the commissioners?

Second, given that the commissioners had wrongly exercised their initial discretion, should the VAT tribunal then (a) allow the appeal against the commissioners' initial decision and leave it to

them to make a fresh decision on the basis of such facts as they ought properly to have considered or consider at the time of the fresh decision; or (b) itself come to a decision in the light of the current evidence; or (c) put itself in the position of the commissioners, in the light of the evidence as it existed at the time of the decision which they had taken and substitute its decision for that of the commissioners.

On the first issue, it was clear that neither in the body of the Act, nor in Schedule 8 nor in the Value Added Tax Tribunal Rules (SI 1986 No 590) was the nature of the decision at which the tribunal was to arrive expressly stated. The view expressed by the chairman in the present case was that the jurisdiction of the tribunal was supervisory rather than appellate: see *Mr Wishmore Ltd v Commissioners of Customs and Excise* [1988] STC 723.

Mr Englehart submitted that both that case and *Commissioners of Customs and Excise v Peachtree Enterprises Ltd* [1994] STC 747 were not appropriate because they were based on an erroneous concession made by the commissioners.

He submitted that the court had to consider the true nature of an appeal to a VAT tribunal of which there were three possibilities: the role of the tribunal supervisory to be exercised on *Wednesbury* principles of reasonableness [1948] 1 KB 223; was it appellate simpliciter; or was it in the nature of an appeal by way of rehearing: see Order 59, rule 3 of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

Mr Englehart contended that the first possibility was not appropriate, and if it were, it was not open to the tribunal on the facts of the present case, to substitute its own judgment for a discretion which the commissioners ought to have exercised in the first instance. It could not be said that if the commissioners had taken into account those matters they had wrongly excluded from consideration, the decision was bound to be the same. He submitted that an appeal on a proper construction of the 1983 Rules was an appeal by way of rehearing.

In his Lordship's judgment, an interpretation of the relevant rules which naturally suggested itself was that the nature of the process of pursuing an appeal to a tribunal was likely to involve an investigation of those very matters which the commissioners themselves would, or should have done before reaching their decision.

Conversely, if the nature of that process was supervisory, those grounds of the rules which were plainly designed to further the gathering of evidence, factual investigation and submission would be otiose.

Simply as a matter of impression and given the exceptional nature of the

power of the courts to review administrative decisions, it would be surprising if under the guise of creating a right of appeal, Parliament had in reality intended to extend that exceptional jurisdiction to confer upon a tribunal, like the VAT tribunal, the power to exercise such jurisdiction.

It was clear in both *Mr Wishmore Ltd* and *Peachtree Enterprises Ltd* that the nature of an appeal went by concession. In his Lordship's judgment, it was doubtful whether the concession was properly made.

The nature of a hearing before the tribunal was not only appropriate to a factual rehearing, but was inappropriate to a hearing in the nature of a supervisory review of an earlier decision.

The question therefore arose whether the process for which provision was made in section 40 was an appeal simpliciter or did indeed give a right to a rehearing.

Since the disputed decision of the commissioners was not required to be one which set out the facts found, let alone taken into consideration, nor yet was it one that had to justify or explain itself, the argument that the proceedings before the tribunal were in the nature of an appeal and not one of review became, in his Lordship's judgment, overwhelming.

If all the tribunal was able to do was to

review the decision on a point of law, one would have expected section 40 to have said so.

On the second issue, his Lordship observed that the chairman had asked himself what decision a reasonable body of commissioners might have taken had they considered the financial material available on January 10, 1992. He relied on *R v Secretary of State for Social Services, Ex parte Wellcome Foundation* [1987] 1 WLR 1166, 1175.

That case had shown that the decision, although flawed, could be demonstrated to have been correct in the result. Such a situation was not to be found in the present case, where the chairman in effect second guessed what decision the commissioners would have reached had they taken into account those matters which they ought, but did not. The chairman was therefore wrong to have substituted his own view.

The remaining issue was whether the right of appeal conferred by section 40 was an appeal strictly so called or an appeal by way of rehearing.

Section 40(1) did not make the same kind of provision found in section 15(3) of the Supreme Court Act 1981. The proper construction of the 1983 Act did not readily require that the VAT tribunal was vested with those powers which were expressly conferred on the Court of Appeal under section 15 of the 1981 Act. There was the further argument that

the commissioners were the body in whom was vested the original discretion whether or not, and if so in what amount, to require a deposit from the taxpayer for the protection of the revenue.

The VAT tribunal could not be expected to be invested with the same knowledge and experience as the commissioners for the purpose of substituting its own exercise of discretion in place of the discretion which had been exercised by the commissioners in order to settle, or otherwise determine, what the amount of any assessment or deposit should be.

In his Lordship's judgment, therefore, once the chairman had been satisfied that the commissioners' original decision had been erroneous because of the failure to take into account relevant material, he should simply have allowed the appellants' appeal, thereafter leaving the commissioners free to take a fresh decision if they thought fit on the facts as they had become at the date of that fresh decision.

That was consistent with the approach of Lord Simon of Glaisdale in *Corbin's* case. It followed that the formulation in issue 2(a) was correct. For all those reasons the appeal would be allowed.

Solicitors: Dickinson Dees, Newcastle; Solicitor, Customs and Excise.

## Value of house for income support

**Chief Adjudication Officer and Another v Palfrey**  
Same v Dowell  
Same v McDonnell  
Same v Pelter  
Same v McNamara

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Hobhouse and Sir Ralph Gibson  
[Judgment February 13]

For the purposes of calculating the capital of a claimant for income support, the provisions of the Income Support (General) Regulations (SI 1987 No 1967) required: (i) by regulation 52 a claimant's interest in a house of which he had a beneficial joint tenancy be valued by taking account of the current market value of his interest and not of his share of the value of the whole beneficial interest; and (ii) by regulation 46 no account would be taken of any property owned by the claimant but which was subject to a tenancy in favour of another.

The Court of Appeal so held in reserved judgments dismissing appeals by the Chief Adjudication Officer and the Secretary of State for Social Security from decisions of social security commissioners on claims brought by Clifford Palfrey, Doris Dowell, Barbara McDonnell, Paul Pelter and Mary McNamara.

Regulation 52 of the 1987 Regulations provides: "Where a claimant and one or more persons are beneficially entitled in possession to any capital asset they shall be treated as if each of them were entitled in possession to the whole beneficial interest therein in an equal share ... for the purposes of calculating the amount of capital which the claimant is treated as possessing."

Regulation 46(2) of and Schedule

10 to the regulations provide: "There shall be disregarded from the calculation of a claimant's capital ... [any] reversionary interest."

Mr Michael Beloff, QC and Mr J. R. McManus for the Chief Adjudication Officer and the Secretary of State; Mr John Howell, QC and Ms Natalie Liew for Mrs McDonnell; Mr John M. Burton for Mr Pelter; Mr Richard Drabble as *amicus curiae*; the other respondents did not appear and were not represented.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE said that income support was a means tested benefit introduced by the Social Security Act 1986. To obtain the benefit a claimant must either have no income or income which does not exceed "the applicable amount".

Further a claimant was not entitled to the benefit if his capital, calculated in accordance with the regulations, exceeded a prescribed limit, at present £8,000. Each case was concerned with whether the claimant's capital exceeded that limit.

The questions that arose were questions of law. Taking Mr Palfrey's case as an example, he and his daughter acquired as beneficial joint tenants, a house which had been the family home since the early 1950s.

In 1991 Mr Palfrey went into residential care. Before that he had been in receipt of income support, his interest in the house being left out of account in the calculation of his capital.

But once he ceased to occupy the house his interest came into the reckoning. Mr Palfrey accepted that that was so but there was a fundamental difference of opinion as to how the calculation should be made.

For the chief adjudication officer, it was submitted that the whole beneficial interest in the asset had to be valued and then divided into the same number of equal shares as there were persons entitled to the beneficial interest in possession, the claimant being debited with his share of that value. On that basis, Mr Palfrey was to be debited with capital of some £16,000.

Mr Palfrey's case was that what had to be brought into account was a claimant's interest in the asset which, pursuant to regulation 49(a) had to be valued at its current market value; in Mr Palfrey's case virtually nil.

The effect of the regulation on Mr Palfrey was to treat his interest in the house as a beneficial interest in a half share. But to find out how that interest was to be brought into account examination of the crucial words of the regulation was required: "... they shall be treated as if each of them were entitled in possession to the whole beneficial interest therein in an equal share".

Thus the persons beneficially entitled in possession were to be treated as if each of them were (a) entitled in possession to the whole beneficial interest in the property (b) in an equal share.

What was the effect of that provision? The only entitlement known to the law where (a) and (b) could coexist was a tenancy in common in equal shares, each tenant, while the property was undivided, being entitled to the whole in common with the other and, on its division to an equal share.

Thus what regulation 52 required to be brought into account was a claimant's deemed or actual beneficial interest in an equal share and, by virtue of regulation 49(a), that was to be valued at its current market value. The prob-

able result in Mr Palfrey's case was a nil valuation.

The second question arose only in the cases of Mrs McDonnell and Mr Pelter, each of whom was the owner of a property subject to a tenancy in favour of another. They contended, and the commissioners who decided their cases held, that their respective interests in the tenanted properties were reversionary interests and had to be disregarded because of regulation 46(2) and paragraph 5 of Schedule 10.

On October 18, 1985, Mr Commissioner Edwards-Jones, QC, held in Decision R(SB) 3/86, that a "reversionary interest" was "something which does not afford any present enjoyment but carries a vested or contingent right to enjoyment in the future", a concept which he held did not include a reversionary interest in tenanted property. That decision had been consistently followed by social security commissioners in England.

However, in the instant cases the commissioners rejected the chief adjudication officer's submission based on the decision in R(SB) 3/86. They found no grounds for attributing a special or restricted meaning to the expression "reversionary interest" and they had no doubt that a freehold let to tenants was a reversion in the common and legal sense of the word.

The commissioners were right. The words were clear. The second question, like the first should be decided in favour of the claimants.

Lord Justice Hobhouse and Sir Ralph Gibson gave concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Solicitor, Department of Social Security; Sinclair Taylor & Martin; Norton Kensington; Maurice Hackenbroch & Co, Westminster; Treasury Solicitor.

## Restraint will rarely be justified

**In re Applied Database Ltd**  
Before Mr Justice Lightman  
[Judgment January 23]

When exercising its discretion under rule 4.11(1) of the Insolvency Rules (SI 1986 No 1925) to restrain advertisement of a petition for the compulsory winding-up of a company presented by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry the court would not prevent advertisement save in exceptional circumstances.

Where the petition was not an abuse of process, the fact that exceptional damage might be caused to the company by informing persons likely to have dealings with it of the fact of presentation would not, in a case where there had been no order made under section 127 of the Act validating such transactions in the event of a winding-up order being made, justify restraint.

Mr Justice Lightman so held in a reserved judgment in the Chancery Division when dismissing the application of Applied Database Ltd for an order that advertisement of the petition presented by the secretary of state on December

16, 1994 under section 124A of the Insolvency Act 1986, as inserted by section 60 of the Companies Act 1989, be dispensed with or restrained until after the hearing of the petition.

Mr Mark Arnold for the company; Mr Clary Newey for the secretary of state.

MR JUSTICE LIGHTMAN said that the petition, presented on the just and equitable grounds, alleged that the company's claims to be a market research company were bogus, that a scheme operated by it, allegedly for the purpose of establishing a database which might then be sold, whereby members of the public (a) became entitled to joining to win a bonus or prize, (b) were requested to provide certain information about themselves for the database and (c) were invited to procure the membership of others securing like information from them whereupon further bonuses or prizes might be won, was in fact a lottery, that the scheme was bound to fail and that the company was using misleading promotional material.

The company claimed to have an arguable defence to the petition. No order had been made under section 127 of the 1986 Act validating transactions after the date of the petition to cover the eventuality that the petition succeeded.

Rule 4.11 of the 1986 Rules gave the court a discretion to dispense with or restrain advertisement only in exceptional circumstances would it be exercised.

Advertisement served two purposes:

1 To enable creditors and interested parties to attend and put before the court material relevant to the decision whether or not to make a winding-up order and

2 To tell the public what they were entitled to know, namely that a petition had been presented so that they might be warned that any dealing with the company should take place with caution.

Thus advertisement would be restrained if the petition had not raised a serious issue and constituted an abuse of process or where restraint were necessary to enable the presentation of an administration petition.

There seemed to be little, if any, scope for a restraining order save in such exceptional circumstances.

The company's case was that public knowledge of the petition created the real danger that applications for membership of the scheme might decline or cease and, further, that members who had been such for less than 27 weeks might cease their contractual right to return of their membership fees.

His Lordship saw no force, however, in such complaint: commercial honesty required that existing or prospective members be informed of the truth, namely that the future of the company was in doubt, the second purpose of advertisement, and, moreover, it being common ground that all members past and present were entitled to repayment of all membership fees if the scheme were held to be a lottery, the company would be insolvent, fulfilling the first mentioned purpose of advertisement, such members therefore might rank as creditors and should be entitled to be heard on the petition.

His Lordship therefore dismissed the application.

Solicitors: Joseph Hyde; Treasury Solicitor.

## Fiancee became homeless intentionally

**Regina v Barking and Dagenham London Borough Council, Ex parte Okunye**  
Before Sir Louis Blom-Cooper, QC  
[Judgment February 10]

A woman who had not established a household with her fiancé and who left her home in Nigeria to live with him in the United Kingdom, had ceased to occupy available accommodation and was intentionally homeless for the purposes of section 60 of the Housing Act 1985.

Sir Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division, so held in dismissing the application of Cynthia Awolesi Okunye for certification to quash the decision of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham made on April 8, 1994 that she had become homeless intentionally.

Section 60 of the 1985 Act provides: "(1) A person becomes intentionally homeless if he deliberately does or fails to do anything in consequence of which he ceases to occupy accommodation which is available for his occupation and which it would have been reasonable for him to occupy."

Section 75 provides: "... accommodation shall be regarded as available for a person's occupation only if it is available for occupation both by him and by any other person who might reasonably be expected to reside with him."

Mr Declan O'Mahony for the council; Mr Robert Latham for the applicant.

HIS LORDSHIP said that in *R v Hillingdon Borough Council, Ex parte Islam* [1983] 1 AC 688 the House of Lords had held that a man whose family members had lived in Bangladesh in accommodation that was not available to be shared with him had not made himself homeless by bringing them to the UK as they could reasonably be expected to reside with him as required by section 75 of the 1985 Act.

In the present case, the local authority was entitled to regard even those who were homeless as single persons with singular patterns of life.

There was a different situation to the one in *Islam* where there was an established family unit of

husband and wife and four children.

In the present case there was no evidence that the couple had established a household, there was no evidence that when they came to England they were trying to establish a family or that Mrs Okunye, when she was his fiancée had depended on Mr Okunye when she first came to England.

The authority's conclusion that it was unreasonable for the applicant to leave her home to satisfy her wish to live with her fiancé immediately was not to be faulted. She deliberately left her last settled address in Nigeria with the inevitable consequence that she ceased to occupy accommodation which had been available to her.

Solicitors: Mr J. H. Welchman, Barking; Mullinger Banks, East Ham.

## Parental responsibility consent required for change of name

**Practice Direction (Child: Change of surname)**

Where a person with parental responsibility for a child applied to change the surname of a child under the age of 18, the application had to be supported by the written consent of every other person with parental responsibility.

The Senior Master of the Queen's Bench Division so stated in a Practice Direction issued with the approval of the Master of the Rolls on December 20, 1994.

(1a) Where a person had by any order of the High Court, county court or family proceedings court been given parental responsibility for a child and applied to the central office, filing department, for the enrolment of a deed poll to change the surname (family name) of such child (unless in the case of a female, she was married below that age), the application had to be supported by the production of the consent in writing of every other person having parental responsibility.

(b) In the absence of such consent, the application would be adjourned generally unless and until leave was given to change the surname of such child in the proceedings in which the said order was made and such leave was produced to the central office.

(2a) Where an application was made to the central office, filing department, by a person who had not been given parental responsibility of the child by any order of the High Court, county court or family proceedings court for the enrolment of a deed poll to change the surname of such child who was under the age of 18 years (unless in the case of a female, she was married below that age), the application had to be supported by the production of the consent in writing of every other person having parental responsibility.

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(b) In the absence of such consent, the application would be adjourned generally unless and until leave was given to change



# Westner puts wide local knowledge to good use

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN JOHANNESBURG

A FEW years ago, if you had dropped in at The Wanderers golf club on the northern rim of Johannesburg, your eye might have been caught by two men with full, flowing swings who hit the ball a long way in the thin, rarified air. One was Wayne Westner, who has been a member of Wanderers for some years and who would go on to win an event on the European Tour; the other, the one with the shock of fair hair, was Ernie Els, the US Open champion, who first played at this course as a ten-year-old amateur 15 years ago.

Local knowledge counts for something, clearly, because Westner leads the Lexington SA PGA by three strokes from Els. Westner went round in 62, eight under par, Els in 65.

The weather in Johannesburg has been exceptionally balmy for what is supposed to be the rainy season. No rain

has fallen for nearly one month and, in fact, the introduction of water restrictions is being talked about. The course, though it is bounded by roads along which vehicles pass ceaselessly, is free of smog and industrial haze. Every day, seemingly, it is bathed in a thin, clear light reminiscent of southern Spain in May or June.

Conditions could scarcely be more suitable for long, accurate hitters such as Westner and Els, both of whom have the golfing tools necessary to wrestle this 7,000-yard course to its knees. Westner needed nothing longer than a four iron for his second shot to a par four and could reach each of the three par fives in two. So could Els.

"The par might be 70, but a more realistic figure today was 67," Westner, who won the 1993 Desert Classic, said. He had six birdies and an eagle and was out before the greens spiked up and became fast and treacherous and thus much more difficult. Both he and Els were among the early starters, teeing off at 7.30am and 8am respectively.

It is significant, in view of the way the quality of the greens changed during the day, that Van Phillips, Trevor

Dodds and Alexander Cejka, who all had 66s, and Jay Townsend, who shot 67, were also among the early starters. Of the top 27 players who were on 69 or better, only six played in the second part of the day.

"It is very disappointing to find the greens like this," Els said. "This is one of the best weeks on the [South African] Tour, but, in the past three years, the golf course has not been very good. The greens used to be like billiard tables here, but now they are very patchy and hard."

Els drew a small gallery and one that was surprisingly quiet, but perhaps that was because the man who has won four events since the start of October gave them little to cheer about. His drives were enormous, bounding yards past Mark James and Hendrik Buhmann.

Now and again, though, there was a certain bluntness about Els's approach shots. On the 2nd and 3rd, for instance, he was, by a long way, the nearest to the green from the tee and the furthest from the flag on the green. Some frustration was building up and, on one tee, he slammed his driver against the base of his bag.

On the 4th, after another huge drive, he holed from nine feet and the 5th was comfortably within range. Although his second finished in a bunker, Els was left with an easy shot of no more than 15 feet. Showing the deftness that is such a strong part of his game, he softly extricated his ball from the sand so that it came to rest no more than two feet from the hole.

Els flirted with one of those rules that can be tricky for one who plays on different tours around the world and thus under different rules. On his last hole, he wanted relief from an advertising hoarding that was in his line, which he would get in Europe. A different rule applies in this situation in events on the South African Tour, however, and, for a few moments, it was thought that Els had made the wrong decision and, heaven forbid, was in danger of being disqualified. Andy McFee, one of the European Tour's estimable referees, ruled that Els had acted correctly and the day was saved.

# Women set their sights on becoming top guns

David Powell finds rifle shooting is a sport that is a long way from having a Dirty Harry image

Women in control is the new, unofficial motto of Oxford University Rifle Club. One more Annie Oakley and the entire team to face Cambridge University in the Varsity shooting match for the Lerman Cup at Kensington tomorrow would have been made up of women.

The motto is no embarrassment to Asif Chowdhury, the only man in Oxford's four. "I applaud it," he said. "As the token male, I sometimes feel that sense of being slightly outgunned, but I am all for a meritocratic approach to sport." Meritocracy has gone as far as the appointment of a woman as captain.

Rifle shooting has long been male-dominated but now Alexandra Pilgrim has become the university's first woman overall club captain. With her election came responsibility for team selection and her chosen sureshots for tomorrow include Lucy Summers and Tamsin O'Connell. If Cambridge are thinking in terms of a massacre, these are three determined and dedicated women they will have to defeat.

Summers is the Kenya Bisley women's champion, a title which she won at Stony Athol, east of Nairobi, after an invitation to shoot had been extended to Oxford by the Kenya Army and police. Bisley, England, is the Mecca of shooting and, according to O'Connell, it shifts uneasily at the sight of women.

"Alex and I went to Bisley for the first time just under two years ago and it is the last corner of the Empire," O'Connell said. "There are red phone boxes outside, men in plus fours, and women are a novelty. I have been asked who I have come to watch and I have had to say: 'No one. I'm shooting.' But we are not three ladies who would be intimidated. It is up to you to turn the atmosphere to your advantage."

The Varsity match at Bisley is small bore and, at practice this week, their dedication was evident. The cricket school, where they set up targets three nights a week, is cold and unwelcoming and the small heater is as much use as one bullet against a regiment. However, psychol-



Pilgrim, the first woman to become Oxford rifle club captain, is keen to see women make a bigger impact. Photographs: Martin Beddall

ogy is everything and outside factors have to be blotted out. Before practice begins, one member receives a ticking off for abusive language in the car park. His response is quiet acceptance, which is good for his shooting. "The

**'Physical factors play less of role than mental discipline'**

sport is far from being Dirty Harry, it is more Tai Chi, a combination of physical movement and mental relaxation," Chowdhury said. "It is precise and strict, requiring more psychological discipline than anything."

"The majority of people will be able, with an average level of skill, to start scoring in the 95 region [prone shooting], given enough practice. It is that small margin between 95 and the perfect ten where psychology comes in and it is all about breathing, having perfect concentration, a relaxed attitude, and knowing when to gently let off the shot."

Or, in the words of O'Connell: "Adrenaline is a bad thing. You can come down

here in a filthy mood and, if you let it influence you, you will score badly."

The competition tomorrow is three-positional: prone, kneeling and standing. "Eighty is a good standing score, 90 is a good kneeling

score," in O'Connell's estimation. This will be the first time a team has been female dominated, but there are no reasons why, according to Oxford's four, they should not shoot as successfully as

men. "None at all," Pilgrim said. "Physical factors play far less of a role than mental discipline and I do not see why women should not be able to compete on identical terms," Chowdhury said.

"On the Continent, where

the sport is much bigger, women have been making more of an impact than in this country and I would be keen to see that change. I am very encouraged by the increasing role that women are playing in our club and hope this will transfer more to national level." Chowdhury may describe himself as "the token male" but the women will not hear of it. He is there on merit, they say.

Much will depend on Pilgrim. "This year I started off a bit shaky, the captain bringing up the rear, but I have been leading from the front for the last few weeks," she said. Eventing was her sport before she arrived at Oxford but, finding that she was sitting next to the women's captain at dinner on her first night, she was persuaded to try it. "I gave it a go and never looked back."

Chowdhury repeats his view that women need have no fear of male opposition; then adds: "The proof of the pudding will be in the match on Saturday because the Cambridge team will be entirely male." Pride and prejudice at stake.



The Oxford team, from the left: Pilgrim, Summers, Chowdhury and O'Connell

# Revitalised N Zealand cruise to easy victory

NEW Zealand ended a 16-match losing streak with a comprehensive four-wicket victory over India in the second match of the one-day century tournament at McLean Park, Napier, yesterday. Chasing a target of 161 to win, New Zealand cruised home with 17 overs to spare.

The result means that New Zealand lead the table with Australia, who on Wednesday beat South Africa in Wellington. Australia and New Zealand will meet in their second round match at Eden Park, Auckland, on Sunday, while South Africa and India play at Hamilton tomorrow.

The return from injury of Martin Crowe, Mark Greatbatch and Chris Cairns injected fresh enthusiasm into the New Zealand side. Ken Rutherford, the captain, began the day well by winning the toss and sending India to bat. India never recovered after losing both their openers, Ajay Jadeja and Sachin Tendulkar, with just 22 runs on the board. Only a partnership of 57 between Navjot Sidhu and Mohammad Azharuddin, the India captain, carried them towards a position of respectability. Sidhu went on to score 73 as Danny Morrison, the New Zealand pace bowler, finished with three wickets for 22 runs.

Opening the batting for New Zealand, Greatbatch started with a forthright 32, but it was the man-of-the-match, Stephen Fleming, who starred with an unbeaten innings of 59. The middle-order batsmen, Shane Thomson and Adam Parore, caused some consternation in the New Zealand camp when they were each dismissed without scoring, but the result was otherwise rarely in doubt.

# Knight crowns fine tour

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

ENGLAND A completed the Indian leg of their winter tour yesterday amid scenes of wild celebration in Hyderabad where they beat India A by 98 runs under floodlights in the Lal Bahadur Stadium to take the one-day series 2-1 to add to their clean sweep of the international matches.

The win was more emphatic than England could possibly have anticipated, but India A were never in a position to challenge England's score of 254 for six from their 50 overs. They found it impossible to mount a recovery after an early collapse, initiated by Dominic Cork and Glen Chapple, and were dismissed for 156.

Nick Knight, Warwickshire's captain from Essex, was named man-of-the-match for his exhilarating and unbeaten innings of 114, scored from 146 deliveries.

He shared a second-wicket partnership of 118 in 88 minutes with Mark Ramprakash before the England vice-captain was dismissed for 53, scored from just 63 deliveries and including three sixes.

Knight, who faced 146 deliveries during 3½ hours at the crease, hit four huge sixes into the largely empty stands.

India, needing to score at 5.1

runs an over, made a terrible start, losing their captain, Vikram Rathore, Rajesh Puri and the highly-rated Anil Muzumdar to the England new-ball bowlers by the time 29 runs had been scored.

As Rahul Dravid, Rizwan Shamsah and Sameer Dighe tried desperately to accelerate, they were picked off by Paul

Weekes, the Middlesex off spinner.

Knight, presented with a silver salver and £200, described his match-winning performance as the best one-day innings of his career. "My plan was to bat through the 50 overs and it worked," he said. "This tour has been a huge learning experience for me. I've learned to bat in Indian conditions and I feel much more confident about playing quality spin as a result. I've also learned the importance of patience."

Phil Neale, the England team manager, praised a "very professional" performance and claimed the tour had been the most successful undertaken by an England A team. "I should think this is one of the best Indian tours by any England team," he said.

"The ease with which we won the deciding one-day international was all the more remarkable because the game was played on a two-paced pitch offering variable bounce. That's why I thought the partnership between Knight and Ramprakash was fantastic."

"We have been successful on this tour because we have played as a team, with great spirit and no selfishness."

(BCCI), and both appear confident the fixtures will be fulfilled.

"We have no reason to believe the tour will not succeed," Halbish said yesterday. "Javed Burki told us he believes the tour will succeed and relations with the BCCI have been cordial. He is well aware that we have no wish to disrupt the good relations between the two boards... he believes the ACB has acted responsibly in this matter."

If that is the case, Burki's position had shifted within 24 hours, because the previous day he expressed anger at the way the ACB had dealt with allegations its players are claimed to

# Pakistan bowlers restore balance

PAKISTAN'S cricketers, despite the bribery allegations which threaten to engulf them, gave a workmanlike performance on the second day of the third Test match against Zimbabwe in Harare yesterday.

At one stage they looked likely to gain a useful first-innings lead, but a playful ninth-wicket partnership of 40 in nine overs between Paul Strang and David Brind helped Zimbabwe to recover to reach 243 before they were all out, 12 ahead.

The Zimbabwe captain, Andy Flower, who was the top-scorer with 37, would have been disappointed that none of his batsmen was able to play the commanding innings which would have allowed his side to seize control of a game which will decide the series.

After the early loss of Grant Flower, Stuart Carlisle dug in but managed only 22 runs in the morning session. By the time he was deceived by Aqib's slower ball, scooping a catch to Salim Malik at mid-off to be fourth out, he had batted 172 minutes for his 31, which included a solitary four.

Allister Campbell (14) and Dave Houghton (19) made promising starts but were

unable to capitalise. Campbell's patience ran out and he slashed a delivery from Nazir to Manzoor Elahi on the third-man boundary. Houghton was good enough to make contact with a perfectly pitched away-swing from Wasim Akram and was caught behind.

Andy Flower and Guy Whithall (34), both of whom stood back during a bowler's run-up in protest at late field changes, then added 50 for the fifth wicket, the highest partnership of the innings, before Flower also fell to a catch on the third-man boundary.

The persistent Aqib Javed, who took the last two wickets, finished with four for 64 from 25 overs. Today is the last day.

PAKISTAN: First Innings: 231 (Pakistan-4 for 53) H H Saeed 4 for 53 G W Flower b Nazir 6 S Carlisle c Salim b Aqib 14 D R Campbell c Manzoor b Nazir 14 D L Houghton c Rashid b Wasim 19 P A Flower c Salim b Manzoor 34 G J Whithall b Aqib 34 I P Butchart c Inzamam b Wasim 18 P A Strang c Salim b Nazir 28 H H Saeed b Aqib 28 D H Brind not out 28 B Strang b Aqib 8 Games (to 4, w 1, nb 28) 31

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-20, 2-51, 3-79, 4-95, 5-145, 6-175, 7-193, 8-193, 9-233. BOWLING: Wasim 28-2-90-2; Aqib 25-5-64; Nazir 12-5-50-3; Manzoor 10-5-26-1; Salim 2-0-7-0.

# Leaders say harmony reigns despite bribery claims

BY SIMON WILDE

AUSTRALIAN and Pakistani cricket officials yesterday put a brave face on the controversy that has enveloped them in the past few days and offered assurances that their relations had not been jeopardised by accusations among players of attempted bribery.

Pakistan are scheduled to tour Australia late this year for three Test matches and several one-day internationals. Graham Halbish, the chief executive of the Australian Cricket Board (ACB), has been in communication with Javed Burki, chairman of the Board of Cricket Clubs of Pakistan

have made that they were offered money by Salim Malik, the Pakistan captain, to "throw" matches in Pakistan last year.

Burki was upset that the accusations emerged five months after the alleged incidents took place and then in Australian newspapers rather than through formal channels. John Reid, the International Cricket Council (ICC) match referee, has confirmed that he was not informed of any alleged wrongdoing.

The ACB has distanced itself from the newspaper allegations, saying it was not responsible for the leaks to the press.

Although Australian players have now been forbidden to speak about the issue, the *Sydney Morning Herald* yesterday reported that they were reluctant to inform their team management of the offered bribes for fear of physical reprisals from bookmakers.

Whether or not the peace holds between Australia and Pakistan, the potential for corruption among players and umpires of all nationalities has been demonstrated by recent events and needs to be examined promptly by the ICC, perhaps with the assistance of an extraordinary meeting.

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# Fine

BY RICHARD EVANS RACING CORRESPONDENT

A NIGHTMARE for a stretching back nine months ended in the most circumstances for the last-race winner at Sandown - after the horse cost £250 fine.

Old, whose hackney in Wiltshire has been hit by the virus this season, incurred the financial penalty after declaring Black H to run at two meetings a day - although the fixture at Taunton was subsequently abandoned because of the weather.

To make matters worse, trainer would have also been fined if both of the races had been worth more than £4 but because the Crain

# SOUTH

THUNDERER 1.50 Jilly Jaffa Cake, 2.25 Chaldon Herring, 3.30 Tarouac 4.30 Warwick Warrior. Our Newmarket Correspondent 2.55 POSTED ABROAD (map)

GOING STANDARD DRAW 6F-1M, LOW NUMBERS 6

1.50 GIRON HANDICAP

3.40, 22.537 1m 30 (13 runners)

102 108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120 121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138 139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154 155 156 157 158 159 160 161 162 163 164 165 166 167 168 169 170 171 172 173 174 175 176 177 178 179 180 181 182 183 184 185 186 187 188 189 190 191 192 193 194 195 196 197 198 199 200 201 202 203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210 211 212 213 214 215 216 217 218 219 220 221 222 223 224 225 226 227 228 229 230 231 232 233 234 235 236 237 238 239 240 241 242 243 244 245 246 247 248 249 250 251 252 253 254 255 256 257 258 259 260 261 262 263 264 265 266 267 268 269 270 271 272 273 274 275 276 277 278 279 280 281 282 283 284 285 286 287 288 289 290 291 292 293 294 295 296 297 298 299 300 301 302 303 304 305 306 307 308 309 310 311 312 313 314 315 316 317 318 319 320 321 322 323 324 325 326 327 328 329 330 331 332 333 334 335 336 337 338 339 340 341 342 343 344 345 346 347 348 349 350 351 352 353 354 355 356 357 358 359 360 361 362 363 364 365 366 367 368 369 370 371 372 373 374 375 376 377 378 379 380 381 382 383 384 385 386 387 388 389 390 391 392 393 394 395 396 397 398 399 400 401 402 403 404 405 406 407 408 409 410 411 412 413 414 415 416 417 418 419 420 421 422 423 424 425 426 427 428 429 430 431 432 433 434 435 436 437 438 439 440 441 442 443 444 445 446 447 448 449 450 451 452 453 454 455 456 457 458 459 460 461 462 463 464 465 466 467 468 469 470 471 472 473 474 475 476 477 478 479 480 481 482 483 484 485 486 487 488 489 490 491 492 493 494 495 496 497 498 499 500 501 502 503 504 505 506 507 508 509 510 511 512 513 514 515 516 517 518 519 520 521 522 523 524 525 526 527 528 529 530 531 532 533 534 535 536 537 538 539 540 541 542 543 544 545 546 547 548 549 550 551 552 553 554 555 556 557 558 559 560 561 562 563 564 565 566 567 568 569 570 571 572 573 574 575 576 577 578 579 580 581 582 583 584 585 586 587 588 589 590 591 592 593 594 595 596 597 598 599 600 601 602 603 604 605 606 607 608 609 610 611 612 613 614 615 616 617 618 619 620 621 622 623 624 625 626 627 628 629 630 631 632 633 634 635 636 637 638 639 640 641 642 643 644 645 646 647 648 649 650 651 652 653 654 655 656 657 658 659 660 661 662 663 664 665 666 667 668 669 670 671 672 673 674 675 676 677 678 679 680 681 682 683 684 685 686 687 688 689 690 691 692 693 694 695 696 697 698 699 700 701 702 703 704 705 706 707 708 709 710 711 712 713 714 715 716 717 718 719 720 721 722 723 724 725 726 727 728 729 730 731 732 733 734 735 736 737 738 739 740 741 742 743 744 745 746 747 748 749 750 751 752 753 754 755 756 757 758 759 760 761 762 763 764 765 766 767 768 769 770 771 772 773 774 775 776 777 778 779 780 781 782 783 784 785 786 787 788 789 790 791 792 793 794 795 796 797 798 799 800 801 802 803 804 805 806 807 808 809 810 811 812 813 814 815 816 817 818 819 820 821 822 823 824 825 826 827 828 829 830 831 832 833 834 835 836 837 838 839 840 841 842 843 844 845 846 847 848 849 850 851 852 853 854 855 856 857 858 859 860 861 862 863 864 865 866 867 868 869 870 871 872 873 874 875 876 877 878 879 880 881 882 883 884 885 886 887 888 889 890 891 892 893 894 895 896 897 898 899 900 901 902 903 904 905 906 907 908 909 910 911 912 913 914 915 916 917 918 919 920 921 922 923 924 925 926 927 928 929 930 931 932 933 934 935 936 937 938 939 940 941 942 943 944 945 946 947 948 949 950 951 952 953 954 955 956 957 958 959 960 961 962 963 964 965 966 967 968 969 970 9



## Stewards penalise Wiltshire trainer £250 for double declaration



Allo George, right, gives trainer Tony Newcombe his first Sandown success with a 20-1 surprise in the Fairmile Novices' Handicap Chase

## Fine dampens Old's overdue winner

By RICHARD EVANS  
RACING CORRESPONDENT

A NIGHTMARE losing run, stretching back nine months, ended in the most bizarre circumstances for Jim Old yesterday when he sent out the last-race winner at Sandown — after the horse cost him a £250 fine.

Old, whose Hackpen string in Wiltshire has been hit badly by the virus this season, incurred the financial penalty after declaring Black H'Penny to run at two meetings yesterday — although the second fixture at Taunton was subsequently abandoned because of the weather.

To make matters worse, the trainer would have avoided the fine if both of the races had been worth more than £4,000, but because the Cranmore

Handicap Hurdle at Taunton had only £2,600-added prize-money, the Sandown stewards had no choice but to impose the set penalty, even though the race never took place.

"I will appeal and make it a cause célèbre because the rule is stupid, absolutely daft. I left Black H'Penny in at Taunton and Sandown because both meetings were in doubt. With complaints about small fields, we are trying to produce winners and this happens," he said as Black H'Penny made her way out on to the Sandown track for the Spring Novices' Handicap Hurdle.

The fine was hardly the best omen for Old but he had the last laugh as Black H'Penny plugged on gamely in the heaviest Sandown ground for years to catch Native Alliance, the 6-5 favourite.

As well-wishers congratulated Old, including one of the Sandown stewards who had earlier imposed the fine, he admitted: "I didn't think I would ever train another winner. We had to close down the

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: MISTER ODDY (2.00 Sandown Park)  
Next best: Landed Gentry (3.10 Sandown Park)

stable for ten weeks due to the virus but all three of mine ran really well today."

Reflecting on the fine, he added: "The owners of Black H'Penny live near Taunton and would love to have seen her run there. She's in one

doubt about the meeting. She was so well I could not afford to miss the Sandown race because I knew it would suit her perfectly."

Old's victory completed a rare double at Sandown for an hour earlier Richard Price, trainer of last year's Champion Hurdle winner, Flakely Dove, sent out his first winner of this campaign when Zealous Kitten also forged to the front within the shadow of the winning post to take the Wavendon Handicap Hurdle.

Price confirmed that Flakely Dove would be race again because of a tendon injury and she is set to go to stud. "I feel better for it. We have not had the best of seasons with little niggly things going wrong and it has been a tough time. I don't feel at all sad about her retirement. She's in one

piece and there is only one other mare that has won the Champion Hurdle (Dawn Run) and look what happened to her. It is exciting thinking what the foals of a Champion Hurdle winner will be like."

After winning all three races as a two-year-old, the impeccably bred Taos was briefly favourite for the 1993 Derby but he failed to build on his initial promise during his three-year-old career and finally ended up in Dubai.

Nigel Twiston-Davies bought the son of Sadler's Wells, along with Great Marquess, from Godolphin, Shaikh Mohammed's Dubai-based racing satellite, last spring and yesterday the potential jumping stallion opened his account over timber when winning the Village

Novices' Hurdle by a distance. Along with Great Marquess, he is entered in both the novice hurdle races at Cheltenham.

The Jenny Pitman-trained Rouyan will be Cheltenham Festival "banker" material for many after winning the Lonsborough Chase without coming off the bridle.

Always travelling and jumping smoothly, the nine-year-old is likely to go for either the Midway or Flete Challenge Cup and looks to have an outstanding chance.

Allo George sprang a 20-1 surprise in the Fairmile Novices' Handicap Chase to provide Barnstable-based Tony Newcombe with his first course success. The winner, ridden by Andrew Thornton, denied Keano and Adrian Maguire by a neck.

## SANDOWN PARK

1.50 Jilly Jaffa Cake, 2.25 No Submission, 2.55 Chelston Herring, 3.20 Taroucent, 4.00 Mad Militant, 4.30 Warwick Warrior.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 1.50 Fan Terrier, 2.55 POSTED AIRFOOT (nap).

GOING: STANDARD  
DRAW: 6F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

## 1.50 GIRTON HANDICAP

(3-Y-O: £2,537; 1p 30) (13 runners)

101 350 FAN TERRIER 12M W Haggis 9-2 W Woods 5  
102 101-5 SOMETHING SPEEDY 27 (F) P Breen 9-2 M Gifford 5  
103 6-54 JILLY JAFFA CAKE 2M D Johnston 9-2 M Gifford 5  
104 6-55 ROLLS OF ROSE 8M Haggis 9-2 M Gifford 5  
105 4-30 FANNY'S SON 28M W Haggis 9-2 M Gifford 5  
106 0-40 KIDNED GREYHOUND 18 (F) D Johnston 9-2 M Gifford 5  
107 4-40 ANATOLIAN 18 (F) D Johnston 9-2 M Gifford 5  
108 5-5 NEVER OLD LADY 27 T Haggis 9-2 M Gifford 5  
109 0-40 FANNY'S SON 28M W Haggis 9-2 M Gifford 5  
110 0-40 FANNY'S SON 28M W Haggis 9-2 M Gifford 5  
111 0-40 FANNY'S SON 28M W Haggis 9-2 M Gifford 5  
112 0-40 FANNY'S SON 28M W Haggis 9-2 M Gifford 5

## 2.25 HARWICK CLAIMING STAKES

(£2,537; 1m) (7)

201 0-40 PRIVATE PICTURE 97 (F) D Johnston 9-2 M Gifford 5  
202 1-40 HELLION 32 (F) D Johnston 9-2 M Gifford 5  
203 2-40 BATTLE COURAGE 4 (F) D Johnston 9-2 M Gifford 5  
204 0-40 HELLION 32 (F) D Johnston 9-2 M Gifford 5  
205 0-40 HELLION 32 (F) D Johnston 9-2 M Gifford 5  
206 0-40 HELLION 32 (F) D Johnston 9-2 M Gifford 5  
207 0-40 HELLION 32 (F) D Johnston 9-2 M Gifford 5  
208 0-40 HELLION 32 (F) D Johnston 9-2 M Gifford 5

## 2.55 KIRKBY-IN-ASHFIELD HANDICAP

(3-Y-O: £2,537; 7f) (7)

301 3-55 CHANDLER 15 (F) D Johnston 9-2 M Gifford 5  
302 3-55 CHANDLER 15 (F) D Johnston 9-2 M Gifford 5  
303 3-55 CHANDLER 15 (F) D Johnston 9-2 M Gifford 5  
304 3-55 CHANDLER 15 (F) D Johnston 9-2 M Gifford 5  
305 3-55 CHANDLER 15 (F) D Johnston 9-2 M Gifford 5  
306 3-55 CHANDLER 15 (F) D Johnston 9-2 M Gifford 5  
307 3-55 CHANDLER 15 (F) D Johnston 9-2 M Gifford 5  
308 3-55 CHANDLER 15 (F) D Johnston 9-2 M Gifford 5

## Sandown Park

GOING: HEAVY  
2.00 (2m 110yd) hds 1, TAOS (D Johnston, 14-1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 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1343, 1344, 1345, 1346, 1347, 1348, 1349, 1350, 1351, 1352, 1353, 1354, 1355, 1356, 1357, 1358, 1359, 1360, 1361, 1362, 1363, 1364, 1365, 1366, 1367, 1368, 1369, 1370, 1371, 1372, 1373, 1374, 1375, 1376, 1377, 1378, 1379, 1380, 1381, 1382, 1383, 1384, 1385, 1386, 1387, 1388, 1389, 1390, 1391, 1392, 1393, 1394, 1395, 1396, 1397, 1398, 1399, 1400, 1401, 1402, 1403, 1404, 1405, 1406, 1407, 1408, 1409, 1410, 1411, 1412, 1413, 1414, 1415, 1416, 1417, 1418, 1419, 1420, 1421, 1422, 1423, 1424, 1425, 1426, 1427, 1428, 1429, 1430, 1431, 1432, 1433, 1434, 1435, 1436, 1437, 1438, 1439, 1440, 1441, 1442, 1443, 1444, 1445, 1446, 1447, 1448, 1449, 1450, 1451, 1452, 1453, 1454, 1455, 1456, 1457, 1458, 1459, 1460, 1461, 1462, 1463, 1464, 1465, 1466, 1467, 1468, 1469, 1470, 1471, 1472, 1473, 1474, 1475, 1476, 1477, 1478, 1479, 1480, 1481, 1482, 1483, 1484, 1485, 1486, 1487, 1488, 1489, 1490, 1491, 1492, 1493, 1494, 1495, 1496, 1497, 1498, 1499, 1500, 1501, 1502, 1503, 1504, 1505, 1506, 1507, 1508, 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Rowell turns to psychologist in attempt to give his team an advantage

# England seek victory in mind games

David Hands discovers  
a psychologist at  
work in the England  
training camp

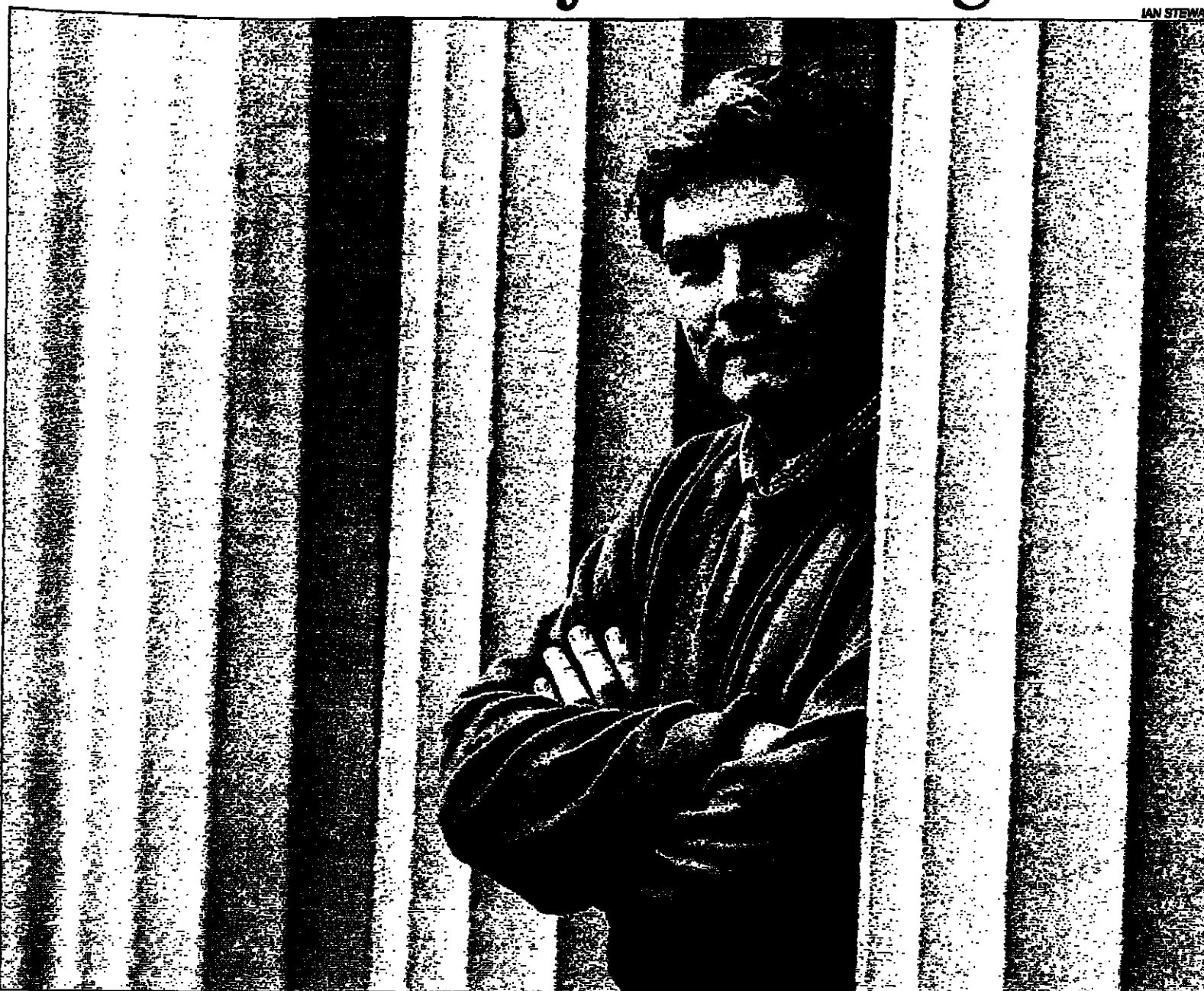
Four years ago members of England's squad were taken back to receive their own casseroles of the Welsh national anthem. It was Geoff Cooke's way of helping prepare them for the "Cardiff experience" — a taste of the unique Welsh atmosphere which, along with a cast of distinguished players, has ensured that on only eight occasions have England won a five nations' championship match in the Welsh capital.

Rugby union is a conservative game. Its exponents, particularly forwards, enjoy their own individual or collective rituals before international matches, worked out by their own experience or traditions handed down by those who have gone before. Psychologists refer to the "peer culture", the herd instinct which distinguishes the game.

Cooke, then England's manager, did not expect all his players to dutifully play the tapes, but some did. He also changed their travelling routine, taking them into Cardiff in time to spend 36 hours absorbing the bustle on the streets before the match, the cheeky banter with Welsh supporters, the down-to-earth affection for the game which was, admittedly, at a low ebb that year.

The upshot was England's first success in Cardiff since 1963. The pragmatists may put that down to England's vastly superior pack and the goal-kicking of Simon Hodgkinson but Cooke, ever seeking that extra percentage point which might give his team an advantage, may reasonably have felt that his limited venture into sports psychology had some effect.

Tomorrow England visit Cardiff again and this season they have taken the mind game a stage further by inviting Austin Swain, a lecturer in sports psychology at Loughborough University, to join the squad prior to each international. The invitation stemmed from Jack Rowell, the manager, and Swain produced a paper after the game against Ireland for the Rugby Football Union's technical staff to consider: broadly speaking it dealt with what Swain calls the "macro and the micro role" of the psychologist.



Swain in contemplative mood as he considers how he can help the England team overcome Wales at Cardiff Arms Park tomorrow

The latter is concerned with the individual player who may wish, voluntarily, to take the opportunity which Swain's presence provides to discuss personal aspects of preparation. The former deals in a more holistic way with team attitudes and perceived lapses in concentration — what Will Carling has referred to as "cruise control" — during the game.

It is a novel path for senior rugby to tread. Swain, 31, was a useful back-row forward with Loughborough Students (whom he now coaches), Bedford (where he played briefly with Martin Bayfield) and Moseley before injury terminated his career five years ago. He has worked with England colts' teams but is aware of

having to tread cautiously at this level, not to force himself upon experienced players, to ensure the discretion of any medical practitioner.

What he offers may be comparatively old hat for individual sportsmen and women, the golfer, the tennis player, the athlete, whose self-awareness needs to be complete. The team ethic — particularly the British team ethic — may work against him, though not in the United States, where sports science is an everyday part of the collegiate as well as the professional sports structure.

There is an awareness at the elite level of the need for that something extra which may make the difference. Swain said: "Technically and physiologically teams are very

## FIVE NATIONS



well matched, they have studied each other's tactics, but they may not always have the ability to produce under pressure. As rugby becomes more professional — with a small p — driven by the World Cup, the game may look beyond traditional methods."

In a some ways it already has. Jonathan Webb, the former England full back, was part of an elite group at Bristol University which applied psychology to their particular disciplines. Carling, the England captain, was a student of psychology at Durham University and the RFU will appoint John Elliott as a player development officer from July. He may be the main beneficiary of Swain's observations.

After the success against France, critics glibly spoke of the psychological block England appeared to have imposed. But what of their own dismal record in Wales? Has 1991 really laid the bogey? Swain emphasises the positive: seven of the team have enjoyed success there, six have

yet to play an international there and are untouched by failure. The only exceptions are Ben Clarke and Bayfield.

"It's important there is an awareness of the hostility they could face from the crowd and the atmosphere generated but it's a case of not internalising that and just getting on with the job," Swain said. "You have respect for these elements and how they may help the Welsh team, but the point is not to be sidetracked by them."

"You can't control those outside elements, but you can control your own reaction to them. And any team that has aspirations towards winning the World Cup will have to conquer whatever is thrown at it."

## Duff appeals against 'unfair' board ruling

MICKEY DUFF paid a heavy price last night for calling Chris Eubank "scum" before a world title boxing contest two months ago. Duff was fined £5,000 by the British Boxing Board of Control for bringing the sport into disrepute. He immediately branded the decision "unfair" and said that he would appeal. The incident occurred on the eve of Eubank's successful defence of the World Boxing Organisation super-middleweight title against Henry Wharton in Manchester.

After a hearing in London, the board's general secretary, John Morris, said: "Mickey Duff was found to have breached Rule 25 in that the remarks he made brought boxing into disrepute with his personal attack on Chris Eubank. We always deplore personal attacks of this nature in boxing, but I don't wish to say a great deal more."

Duff said: "I feel I have been unfairly dealt with. There is one rule for Chris Eubank and one for me. If he can have freedom of speech, so can I."

## Hardcastle bows out

SWIMMING: Sarah Hardcastle, Britain's leading distance freestyle swimmer, has withdrawn from the World Cup final in Germany this weekend on her doctor's advice (Craig Lord writes). An Olympic medal-winner at the Los Angeles Olympic Games, Hardcastle, 24, registered the third-fastest time in the world at 400 metres freestyle at the Sheffield round of the Cup last weekend, but complained of a sore throat and headaches afterwards.

Yesterday, she said: "It has steadily got worse all week and the doctor confirmed that it is a virus. I would hate to come up against on-form Germans in their own pool when I'm not 100 per cent fit." Mark Foster is Britain's best hope of success: he leads the sprint freestyle category and stands second in the butterfly group.

## Illingworth resigns

CYCLING: Matthew Illingworth, the Olympic and world championship rider, has resigned from the British Cycling Association's elite North West Velo-Kodak team on the eve of the new season after a disagreement about which manufacturer's bike he would ride this year. Illingworth said: "The club went back on its agreement that I could ride bikes made by a central London company that has supported me since 1989 and insisted that I used another manufacturer's machine. I wasn't prepared to do that and will ride for a new local club near my home in Southend."

## Blaisdell fined

ICE HOCKEY: Mike Blaisdell, the coach of Nottingham, has been fined £250 and told to apologise to Ken Taggart, the referee, by the British Ice Hockey Association's disciplinary committee for squirting water at him during a recent game. At a meeting of the disciplinary committee yesterday, Steve Harber, another referee, was suspended from officiating while an investigation is carried out into an incident that took place during a game at Telford on February 11, when he is alleged to have exchanged blows with a spectator.

## Johnson takes lead role

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: Brad Johnson, the Minnesota Vikings quarterback, will lead the offence of the London Monarchs when the World League of American Football returns in April. Johnson, 26, has been with the Vikings since 1992. After spending two years on the sidelines, he played last year in all their pre-season games, starting one, and in three National Football League games. The rest of the Monarchs are to be chosen at the league's draft, which is being held in Atlanta on Monday and Tuesday.

## Tong looks to final

TABLE TENNIS: The British League champions, BFL Grove, will be led by their best international acquisition to date, Tong Feiming, of China, when they attempt to reach the final of the European Cup for the first time in Germany tonight. The much-improved Tong won the Panasonic Open in Tokyo last month and is considering basing himself permanently in England. Grove meet TSG Dulmen, who also have an outstanding Chinese player in their squad — the brilliant defender, Ding Yaping.

## Higgins cuts fine figure as new cloth suits players

By PHIL YATES

JOHN HIGGINS hit new heights of excellence as he trounced Ken Doherty 5-0 in only 74 minutes to reach the quarter-finals of the Regal Welsh Open snooker tournament in Bournemouth yesterday.

Higgins, 19, outscored Doherty, the world No 7, 455-34, producing a performance which he had little hesitation in describing as the best of his short, but already highly-successful career. Having admitted feeling somewhat jaded after his recent involvement in the finals of the Regal Welsh Open and Benson and Hedges Masters, Higgins has found his second wind.

He monopolised the table during the first four frames as Doherty, the Regal Scottish Masters champion, went down to only his second whitewash in five years as a professional. The other was inflicted by Ronnie O'Sullivan.

The Scot opened with breaks of 104 and 101 before he added further runs of 80 and 78 to lead 4-0 at the mid-session interval. "John is play-

ing some of the best snooker around; I was lucky to get nil," Doherty said.

Higgins will now meet a compatriot, Euan Henderson, the surprise package of the tournament, who beat Terry Griffiths, a former world champion, 5-2. Henderson, ranked 119th, has also eliminated James Wattana and Dennis Taylor on the way to the last eight of a world ranking event for the first time.

Quarter-finals are, of



Doherty: overwhelmed

course, familiar territory for Steve Davis. The six-times world and United Kingdom champion, attempting to capture his 71st title, progressed thanks to a 5-2 victory over Peter Ebdon, in which his superior tactical awareness and patience proved decisive.

Ebdon, now beaten on five of his seven meetings with Davis, did not enjoy the best of fortune, but the majority of his mistakes were clinically punished by the leading player of the 1980s. Davis compiled breaks of 84, 51, 54 and 58 during his ninth successive win in a ranking tournament.

Mick Price, the world No 27 from Nuneaton, secured his biggest cheque of the season, at least £9,050, with a surprising 5-1 defeat of Darren Morgan, the No 8 seed. In the only frame he won, the third, Morgan constructed a 115 clearance.

The vastly-improved general standard of play was due in no small part to both tables being re-covered overnight. From being slow and unresponsive, they encouraged play of high quality.

## World Cup reaches out to unconquered territory

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

ENGLAND and Australia will kick off the rugby league World Cup at Wembley on October 7 and should the seedings follow their course, meet up there again in the final three weeks later.

In between, the ten-nation jamboree will consolidate in the game's heartland, as well as reaching out to explored but as yet unconquered territory, in a hearts-and-minds exercise as much as a celebration to mark its centenary.

A television audience far exceeding global interest will watch in upwards of 70 countries. Although conspicuous by its absence at the official launch yesterday, the lack of a principal claimant to the £500,000 sponsorship rights was partly compensated by a parade of commercial partners.

Maurice Lindsay, the tournament director, said negotiations were ongoing, and he was hopeful of a deal for a main sponsor being concluded soon. After using Wembley twice, Lindsay said it was a necessarily bold step, whether the stadium sold out or not.

Compared with the nine past World Cups, the 1995 event in England and Wales is a more genuine global affair, with double the number of participants, although the competitiveness of such newcomers as Tonga, Western Samoa, South Africa and Fiji has still to be properly tested.

After Australia, champions of the past three times, England have a straightforward passage into the last four past Fiji and South Africa. In their

group matches, at Cardiff and Swansea, Wales encounter Western Samoa and France, whom they will meet in the deciding match of the John Smith's European championship in Carcassonne on March 5.

England, despite the involvement of three-quarters of the side in Wigan's Challenge Cup replay defeat of St Helens, retained their interest in that competition with a 19-16 dismissal of France. The Gateshead public turned out in reasonable force on Wednesday, and the reward is a World Cup match there between Australia and South Africa.

The futuristic McAlpine Stadium, Huddersfield, will stage two matches, including the second semi-final. Old Trafford will be the venue for the other semi-final. □ Leeds will be missing Harvey Howard, their England prop forward, when they attempt to displace Wigan at the top of the Stones Bitter championship tonight at Castleford, who have Dean Sampson back after suspension.

## SCHEDULE

GROUP ONE: Australia, England, South Africa, Fiji.  
GROUP TWO: New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Tonga.  
GROUP THREE: Wales, France, Western Samoa.  
FURTHER: Group matches: Oct 7: England v Australia (Wembley); Oct 8: New Zealand v Tonga (Warrington); Wales v Western Samoa (Cardiff); Fiji v South Africa (Kingsley); Oct 10: Australia v South Africa (Cardiff); Papua New Guinea v Tonga (Fiji); Oct 11: England v Fiji (Wigan); Oct 12: France v Western Samoa (Cardiff); Oct 14: New Zealand v Papua New Guinea (St Helens); Australia v Fiji (Huddersfield); Oct 15: Wales v France (Gwent); England v South Africa (Huddersfield).  
Semi-finals: Oct 21: Winners group one v winners group three (Old Trafford); Oct 22: winners group two v runners-up group one (Huddersfield).  
Final: Oct 28: Wembley.  
□ seeded teams

## A heavyweight story for country folk

LONDONERS cannot get used to the idea of Frank Bruno boxing tomorrow at Shepton Mallet. Pantomime in the provinces is one thing — three years ago, Bruno was appearing in Robin Hood at Bristol — but heavyweight boxing in the country is something else.

After years of bouts at leading venues in London and, occasionally, Manchester and Glasgow, it seems a little strange to take Bruno from Hornchurch, in Essex, to the West Country to knock out, in a few rounds, one Rudolfo Marin, who has come all the way from Puerto Rico.

At first, after Bruno's defeat by Lennox Lewis and then his

Srikumar Sen gives Bruno's Puerto Rican challenger little chance at Shepton Mallet

failure to draw a big crowd at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, when he met Jesse Ferguson, there were doubts whether Bruno could fill a top venue. So Frank Warren, who has prided himself in taking boxing round the country, decided to take the bout to the West Country because a medium-sized hall, with a capacity of 5,000, was available at Shepton Mallet. Clearly, Bruno had not lost his drawing power. A few days after the announcement six weeks ago, it was a sell-out.

Warren said yesterday that he could have sold the house three times over. "London isn't the be-all and end-all of boxing," he said. "Shepton Mallet is the centre point of the West Country, and it's the biggest venue we could find down here. Our judgment has been vindicated by the fact that we've sold all the tickets. It's good for boxing to take fights round the country and let people see what's going on."

Bruno and Marin met for the first time at a press conference in Belfast yesterday, and aimed the usual threats at each other. Marin said that he has seen Bruno in action against Mike Tyson and was not particularly impressed.

Bruno countered with: "I haven't fought for a year, so I don't want to slip up. He'll find on Saturday that I am much faster than he is and much stronger in every department he wants to come in, even karate."

Marin was knocked out in two rounds by Riddick Bowe in 1991 and sent to hospital with a broken jaw. Most people believe that Marin, who has no ranking with any of the world bodies, will not fare much better against Bruno.

## SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm)	Conditions Piste	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	Last snow
AUSTRIA					
Ischgl	0 80	fair varied	worn	cloud	6 14/2
	(Upper slopes good, lower runs patchy; all six lifts open)				
Obergurgl	80 135	good powder	good	fine	0 16/2
	(Sunny afternoon skiing in 15cm of fresh powder)				
Schladming	80 90	good heavy	fair	cloud	5 16/2
	(Enjoyable skiing after light snowfall; 68 of 75 lifts open)				
St Anton	80 375	fair varied	fair	snow	4 16/2
	(High winds closing lifts; new snow on icy base)				
FRANCE					
Alpe d'Huez	180 380	good varied	good	fair	0 16/2
	(Excellent skiing with improved visibility; 75 of 82 lifts open)				
Les Arcs	180 440	good heavy	fair	cloud	0 16/2
	(Pistes well packed by rain; best skiing in trees)				
Courchevel	155 265	good heavy	good	snow	0 16/2
	(Windy above 2,000 metres, causing lifts to close)				
Val d'Isère	150 355	good varied	good	fair	-1 16/2
	(High winds limiting skiing to protected areas)				
SWITZERLAND					
Arosa	85 115	good powder	good	fine	0 16/2
	(Powder deep and plentiful after overnight snowfall)				
Grindelwald	20 150	god heavy	icy	fine	3 16/2
	(Excellent skiing above 1,300 metres; all 46 lifts open)				
Mürren	75 165	good varied	good	fine	0 16/2
	(Good skiing in afternoon; eight of 12 lifts open)				

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.

## WORD WATCHING

Answers from page 44

### ORTEGUINA

(c) In bull-fighting, a decorative pass made with the muleta; Spanish, from the name of Domingo Ortega (born 1906), the Spanish bull-fighter who invented and made it famous. • *ulina*. "Domingo Ortega introduced a variant in which the man passes his left arm behind his back and grips the lower edge of the cloth with his left hand. This was called the *orteguina* but is now generally called the *manoleína* owing to it having been popularised by the late Manolete."

### RITUALIA

(a) Objects used in or connected with religious rites and ceremonies; the Latin plural of *rituale* relating to rites or ceremonies.

### PASTIE

(a) A covering for the nipple of a woman's breast, from the *paste* with which it is stuck on. "Miss Mason was lying on the floor with nothing on except the scantiest of brassieres, known in the trade as pasties."

### RETICELLA

(c) A lace-like fabric produced especially in Venice in the 15th, 16th, and 17th centuries. Also used attributively to designate the type of geometric pattern characteristic of this fabric.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE  
1... Re2!; and if 2... Bxe2, then 2... Qe2 is mate; otherwise, 2... Rg2+ will be decisive. Less accurate is 1... Qxd1; when 2... Qxc5 allows White to struggle on.

THE TIMES  
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Second seed salvages dramatic victory from the brink of defeat

## Pierce plays up to rivals' advantage

FROM STUART JONES  
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT  
IN PARIS

MARY PIERCE seems yet to appreciate that she has made herself a legitimate target. As the drama queen of women's tennis, she has induced a widespread sense of irritation among her peers, and, as the holder of the Australian Open title, she is inspiring opponents to play well above themselves.

Pierce, 20, the second seed in the Open Gaz de France here, expressed surprise to be exposed to both developments in her opening match. She was taken aback first by the force of the shots struck and then by the criticism uttered by Renee Stubbs. A qualifier from Australia, Stubbs reeled off 11 of 13 games to stand on the verge of the most distinguished victory of her career late on Wednesday night.

Results from Paris, page 40

Having led 5-1 in the final set, she claimed that Pierce's gamesmanship, combined with her own failing nerve, contributed to her narrow defeat, 6-4, 3-6, 7-5.

Pierce collects official warnings for time-wasting almost as a matter of course. She is not above exceeding the limit allowed for delivering a serve when holding match point, as was the case last month in Melbourne. Such theatricality is perceived by opponents as provocative and by the public as tiresome.

Natasha Zvereva, one victim, was applauded by the crowd at Flinders Park when she wiggled her hips and struck a flamboyant pose, mimicking Pierce. But the accusation of Stubbs was aimed at another less-than-sporting custom, which she subsequently agreed was scarcely unique to the Canadian-born French player.

At 5-5 in the third set, Stubbs committed three double faults which effectively cost her a place in the quarter-finals. "She was moving around on my second serves. For the No 3 player in the world to do that is pathetic. She shouldn't need to do it." Distracted by



Pierce hits a fierce return in the course of her second-round victory which attracted strong criticism from Stubbs, her qualifier opponent

the tactic, she was broken and her displeasure was heightened by the unwitting intrusion of a cameraman.

Walking backwards down a corridor running round the indoor stadium, he inadvertently stumbled into the loser as he attempted to film the winner. Stubbs angrily pushed him away. Pierce ignored the incident and reacted as impassively when she heard the allegation which had been laid against her. "I don't try to do anything

purposely," she retorted. "I've played against her [Stubbs] in doubles when she's done the same to me, so I don't pay any attention to that." Nevertheless, she would be advised to restrict her histrionics, whether deliberate or not, if she wants to win over the public.

Other players, in spite of their reservations about Pierce's haughty arrogance, welcomed her triumph in Melbourne. It further refreshed a stagnant women's game, and it also set her up as one of the

principal figures to be knocked down. Stubbs's most notable scalp had been that of Zvereva, then ranked No 17. Feeling that she had nothing to lose, she exchanged pleasantries with members of the audience vociferously supporting her in between blazing an array of winners with her forehand and elegant, one-handed backhand. "I was having so much fun out there," she reflected. "Until she was 5-1 and 15-0 ahead. Someone shouted,

"only three more points", and things started to go through my head. The mind plays tricks on you, but I wasn't worried because I was breaking her so easily. She began to play better, and then I had to hold my own serve. She played the big points better than me. That was the difference."

Yet Pierce had exhausted her limited strategies, and felt powerless to alter the seemingly inexorable course of the improbable second-round

match. "There wasn't much I could do," she conceded. "She was playing so well." Apparently effortlessly, Stubbs had closed a gap of 200 places in the rankings.

Pierce, as she checked the following day's order of play at midnight, was still in a state of bemusement. "Unbelievable," she muttered. "Unbelievable." For her own sake, she had better acquaint herself with the prospect of supposed inferiors being stimulated by her new stature.

## Corsié on course for another world title

By GORDON ALLAN

RICHARD CORSIÉ, winner three times in the past six years, beat Russell Morgan 7-0, 7-0, 7-2 in the first round of the Churchill Insurance world indoor bowls singles championship at the Preston Guild Hall yesterday. The match lasted only 49 minutes — the shortest since the championship became a best-of-five-sets competition in 1988 — and took only ten ends, another record.

Corsié won both the first and second sets in two ends with counts of four and three. Morgan, the 1993 English champion from East Dorset, did not play badly but nothing ran his way and Corsié remorselessly took advantage.

Morgan battled on and picked up a couple of shots in the third set. But Corsié duly finished the job and now plays Cameron Currie, of Australia, who defeated Paul Bennett, of Bodmin, runner-up in the English singles last season, 7-3, 7-2, 7-4.

Corsié said: "I just hope I can go on playing like that. It was an ideal start for me." Morgan said: "Richard did not bowl a single loose bowl and never gave me the chance to settle. I was under pressure all the time. I went out determined to be positive but whatever I tried went wrong."

Paul Foster became the third Scot to lose so far in this tournament when John Price, the 1990 champion, beat him 7-3, 7-1, 4-7, 7-1. Foster, 21, an international from Irvine, said: "I woke up this morning and decided not to practise. It was as simple as that. I was very nervous at the start and couldn't get into the first two sets."

Price was pleased with his own form, in particular his ability to get his first bowls close to the jack. His next opponent will be either Ian Schuback, the 1992 champion, or Margaret Johnston, who met today when women make their first appearance in this championship.

Andrew Currie, a New Zealander who has been bowling for only ten years, never recovered from a bad start and lost to Stephen Rees, a former United Kingdom champion.

Results, page 40

## Pleasure dome of eternal winter

From Euston Station you take a fast train to Rugby and transfer on to a local service which smells of dehydrated coconut and chugs off to Stafford. Tamworth is the second stop. Tamworth is where they have built a snowdome — the first real snow indoor ski-slope in Europe. Tamworth was Robert Peel's constituency, here that the 46-year-old prime minister made his 1834 proclamation in acceptance of the Reform Act — which led to the emergence of the Conservative Party from the old Tory grouping and brought forth reform sceptics, who lost the whip and gave the young prime minister a hard time. Little has changed.

I have been to Tamworth twice in the 1950s to speak for a neighbour who was the



FREUD ON FRIDAY

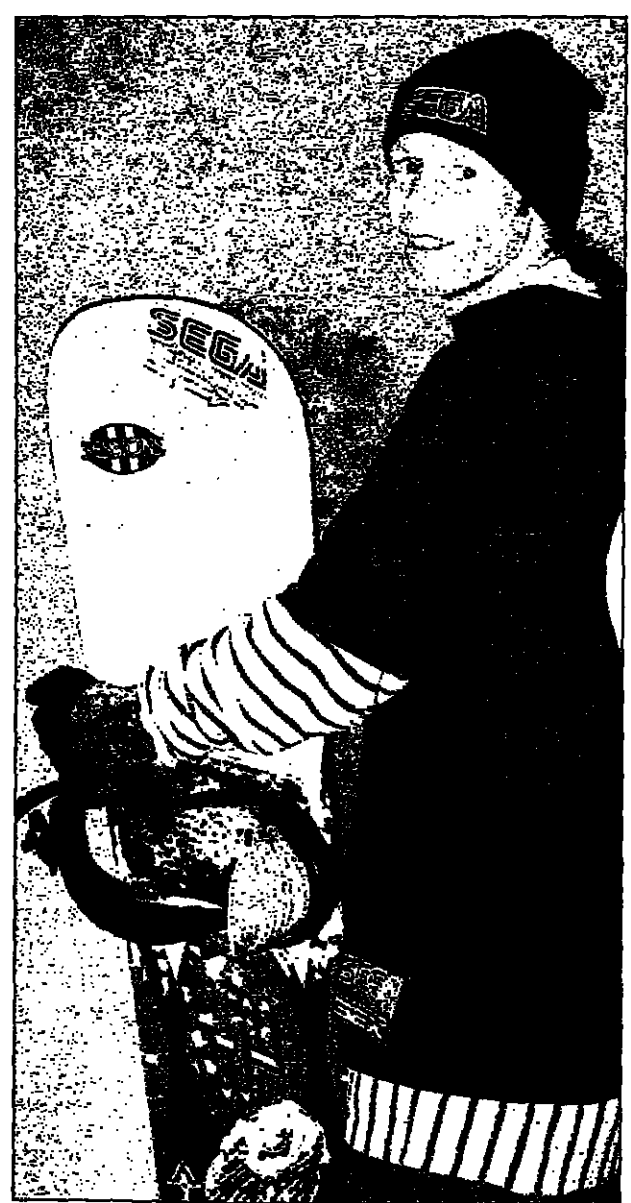
local member of parliament. "I do not share your politics," I had said. "Just tell them what a good neighbour I am."

My second visit was to open a factory that processed sausage skins — casings as they are called.

"Snowboarding is the fastest-growing winter sport ever," it states on the hand-out: "a radical mix-down of surfing, skateboarding and skiing, it has captured the minds of adrenaline-seekers since the 1970s."

It is also, and I hate to write this because the folk at the snowdome were kind and hospitable, bade me make free with a buffet of cold meats and pickled onions, a sport that infuriates upmarket skiers who refer to practitioners of the radical mix-down as "grungey lager louts".

The indoor ski slope is a private enterprise addendum to Tamworth Council's leisure centre: it cost £9 million if my informant was telling the truth, is 120 metres long and the snow is produced on the premises.



It is mostly downhill for Steve Bailey, of Manchester, the British freestyle champion at snowboarding

How is that done? I asked. "How" is a secret like the ingredients of Coca-Cola and Worcestershire sauce only three men know... and they are not telling, and of course they travel in separate cars.

The men from Leamore Developments, whose biggest project this is, are quietly pleased with the way things are going next month they open an Alpine restaurant which will serve fondues and jaeger teas.

They claim attendances of 500 punters per day paying £7.50 a head in the summer; well over twice that figure at a tender each in season, like now. A refrigeration system has been installed under the piste, two or three tons of snow are added weekly.

Snowboards are not unlike surfboards. They have steel edges with footholds fitted at angles of 45 degrees for slalom, 75 degrees for descent and jumps. There is a newish contest called board o'cross in which four contestants race each other around a course of banked turns, obstacles and bumps which involves contact and villainy.

Boards cost upwards of £350 and the man from the BSA (British Surfboard Association) after consultation with his colleague from the ISF (International Snowboard Federation) believes that some 200,000 boards have been sold in the United Kingdom: 13 million worldwide. Steve Bailey, 23, from

Manchester, is the British freestyle champion: he wears loose-fitting, grungey clothes and a ponytail and as Tuesday was press day he made a number of elegant descents ending with sizeable jumps from a ramp.

A TV cameraman skied down the slope beside him filming as he went, reminding me of an occasion at St Peter's in Rome where Gigli, the great singer, hit a note higher than had ever been achieved by a tenor. In the breathless silence that preceded the applause a castrato monk sang "well done Gigli" one octave higher.

Becci Malthouse is probably our best woman: she comes from Chelmsford, began on the dry slopes, went to the Cairngorms then Italy as a chalet maid, became a ski instructor and took up "boarding" in 1990. "You get this buzz going fast and being in control."

She agrees that snowboarders have not done themselves any favours, that the grungey loose-fitting clothes and the retro look give people the wrong idea, give the sport a bad image — perhaps because skiers think they can board: think it comes naturally to those who can move over snow but they are wrong: "You need to fall down 50 times before you have mastered the technique."

Boarding, she says, is harder work than skiing: you can't stand still on a board and you can only go downhill or jump but it is really fantastic on three feet of powder snow.

Are there any celebrity boarders? Not the Royals, not yet, but she has seen a picture of Sting on a snowboard.

In the bar overlooking the indoor piste there is food and drink. Small children sit at consoles playing not altogether benign Sega Megadrive 32X video games. Sega sponsors snowboarding.

Men with amazing haircuts drink designer lager from the bottle and on each table is a list of bar prices: no Glühwein, the first item is garlicky coffee. Garlicky coffee is new to me. "What a good idea," as the Queen Mother would say. I sit back reflecting on how sadly out of date — what my children used to call "unwilted" I am, take another look at the rancid looking and realise it is Gaeic coffee. Ah well.

## Slough turn indoors for success in Europe

By ALIX RAMSAY

SLOUGH leave the weekly grind of the national women's hockey league behind this weekend to focus their attentions on the European clubs' indoor championships in Rüsselsheim, Germany.

It is the first of their two appearances in Europe this season and the one for which they are least prepared. The indoor season in England is something of an afterthought, crammed into the end of the 2½ month winter break in the outdoor season. Most clubs regard it as an extra to the year's endeavours rather than, as in Germany, a significant event.

Slough's only competitive warm-up for Europe was at Crystal Palace in the national finals two weeks ago. Then, they reached the final, but were overwhelmed by Hightown. "We were disappointed with the way we played there," Karen Brown, the former captain of Slough who will be playing in Rüsselsheim, said. "We didn't deserve to win."

However, Brown still believes Slough are good enough to win a medal in Germany, despite the strength of the opposition. They are drawn in group B against Edinburgh Ladies, Victoria, from Holland, and Aldeasa Valdeuz, from Spain. The champions and home club, Rüsselsheim, are in the other group.

"It is a case of entering the unknown," Brown said. "We'll just have to see how it goes. It is a tough group, Edinburgh beat Hightown 7-1 last year and, although we don't know much about the Dutch, we do know they will be strong. If we can win our group and avoid the Germans in the semi-finals then we have a good chance." The last time Slough reached the European indoor championships, they came home with a silver medal.

At least they leave the rest of the premier division clubs to battle it out on Saturday safe in the knowledge nobody is likely to catch them. Three points clear at the top of the table, only Ipswich are within striking distance, but the Suffolk side would have to beat Sutton Coldfield by six clear goals to overhaul Slough's goal difference.

## Reading the future?

**Kaleidoscope Feature: The Great British Library, Radio 4, 9.30pm.** It may turn out, decades ahead, that the misgivings that hang over this documentary like rain clouds were unwarranted. In other words, whatever the merchants of doom are prophesying, the British Library, painfully arising out of the mud of the old St Pancras Library, might turn out to be the ideal institution to take our literature into the 21st century. Meanwhile, we have this *Kaleidoscope* special which rehearses the arguments in the British Library debate. If the library's reading room can ever hope to dislodge the British Museum's from our affections, it does not have to look like (in the Prince of Wales's words) "the assembly hall of an academy for secret police".

**Mining the Archive, Radio 3, 3.00pm.** Most concertgoers have at least one imperishable memory. Mine is of the French cellist Pierre Fournier playing the Dvorák concerto in Croydon in the 1970s. I remember, in particular, the tear that rolled down my cheek in the exquisitely beautiful *andante* as Fournier played the tune Dvorák wrote in memory of the sister-in-law he had once loved passionately, and who was now dying. This afternoon's recordings of Fournier includes this glorious concerto which he recorded in 1977 with the BBC Northern under Dutoit. It also includes Bach's Suite No 3 for unaccompanied cello, and the adagio from Schubert's Piano Trio, D898.

Peter Davall

RADIO 1	WORLD SERVICE
FM Stereo, 4.00am Bruno Brookes 6.30 Steve Wright 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lisa L'Amour 2.00pm Nobby Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier, including at 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat 7.00 Pete Tong's Essential Selection: a musical start to the weekend 10.00 John Peel, new music from Liverpool four-piece Mazzy Fade and a repeat session from Calvin Party 1.00am The FM Rap Show, with Westwood	All times in GMT. 4.30am BBC 1950-1960 4.45am News 6.00am News 6.30am News 7.00am News 7.15 On the Shelf 7.30am News 8.10 Words of Faith 8.15am News 8.15am News 8.25am News 8.30am News 8.45am News 8.50am News 9.00am News 9.05am News 9.10am News 9.15am News 9.20am News 9.25am News 9.30am News 9.35am News 9.40am News 9.45am News 9.50am News 9.55am News 10.00am News 10.05am News 10.10am News 10.15am News 10.20am News 10.25am News 10.30am News 10.35am News 10.40am News 10.45am News 10.50am News 10.55am News 11.00am News 11.05am News 11.10am News 11.15am News 11.20am News 11.25am News 11.30am News 11.35am News 11.40am News 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# Sir, your lesson's interrupting my Walkman

It is strange that the schoolroom is so infrequently chosen for television drama and movies. On the principle of universal recognition, it could be a genre right up there with courts, prisons and hospitals. Yet it is generally *thankful* that it is left alone. For some reason, actors nearly always play teachers badly (by making them much too good); moreover, dramatising the passion of learning is a mug's game, because the intention is too worthy for the medium to bear. Whether it's Robin Williams in *Dead Poets Society* or Michael Caine in *Education*, that inspirational pedagogy thumps his desk and looks utterly phony; the bond he makes with his pupils is sentimental and make-believe.

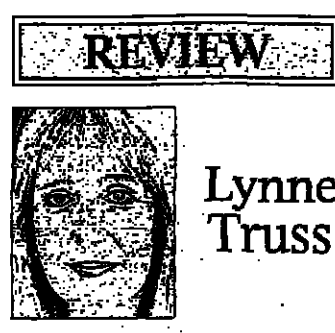
Education dramas can be a turn-off for other reasons. Too. Willy Russell's *Educating Rita*, in which a young, uneducated woman goes to the goals of learning — it

implies that education is purely (rather than incidentally) a passport to the middle class, and that a knowledge of Jane Austen just helps you make authentic "haw haw" noises at cocktail parties. Given this background, then, it is no wonder that the more successful school dramas (*Grandma's Place*, *Sir, Heartbreak High*) forget all that starry-eyed guff about gently leading pupils out of a state of ignorance ("Sir! This Henry James is really groovy!"), and concentrate instead on staff-room intrigue and fourth-form soap opera.

Undaunted by this abysmal record, Jimmy McGovern's *Hearts and Minds* (which started last night on Channel 4) goes ahead and invents the genre all over again. Such courage alone is admirable. Just like every other hero, Drew McKenzie (Christopher Eccleston) arrives for his first

day in an enormous, seething school, to meet embittered colleagues and recalcitrant kids. The corridors bulge with noise and activity; the staff room is an antechamber to hell; and the class listens to personal stories during English. Just like every other hero, Drew lectures brilliantly, harnessing the kids' enthusiasm and controlling it for a few years before they throw him off. But what makes *Hearts and Minds* more sophisticated than the norm is that although Drew is the central figure, we don't see the place entirely through his eyes — the shock (yawn!) the disillusionment (yawn!) He is not just our nice man on the screen. There is more going on than that.

Scenes are huge and crowded, piled-up trays and plates collapse at dinner time. This is an institution that thwarts everybody — the headmaster who



Lynne Truss

wants a job at a better school (but is hampered by an unconventional marital arrangement with a young girl, presumably a former pupil); the acting head of English who misses promotion, and turns to violence. An old, idealistic teacher is reduced to vodka-swilling, staff-room bore and staggeringly lacklustre classroom performer: played beautifully by Peter Halliday, he drones quietly at the

front of his poetry class, as though talking earnestly in his sleep, while the kids pass notes and get on with other things. "Now, can anyone tell me what an iambic pentameter is?" says this sad old chap, but it's not a question, and he doesn't pause before explaining.

How idealistic is Drew? Will he end up like the others? Rehearsing for a job interview, he told his shaving mirror that education had changed his life: he wanted it to change other people's lives too. His central mission is to encourage a young Muslim girl to speak up in class. But he shows promising signs of realism, which will make him more interesting. Crushed by the burden of marking, he pragmatically takes a colleague's advice and simply ticks all the homework instead of correcting it. Asked how he feels about the school opting out, he says he can't afford principles. Meanwhile, despite everything I said earlier

(about how nobody can do it), Eccleston comes across as a good, enthusiastic teacher, without being corny. His scene with the kids about the meaning of "Eyes as big as a football pool" was mastery.

Celebratory editions of *EastEnders* (BBC1) are generally a bit more focused than the 10th birthday last night, which was hardly a landmark. OK, the brash Bianca finally caught boyfriend Nick in the act of grazing on Natalie — I wish he'd stop doing that — but in terms of emotional depth, this particular love triangle was never a story to compete with grand opera. "Got a beer? I'm gagging," is the general quality of the romantic post-coital chat between Ricky and Natalie. "I love you, Ricky," Natalie has ventured a couple of times, her hands in her bomber-jacket pockets; at which the gormless lothario has tucked a strand of hair behind

his ear and winced as though his brain hurt (alas, his everyday expression).

I had expected something more: after all, this is the start of a big week of reminiscence for fans of Albert Square, with quizzes, reruns, *Pebble Mill* specials, and all. Just when you have trawled your mental gloop to picture the long-forgotten Jan (Ian's girlfriend! The older one! He was really horrible to her), someone comes along and says "Mags" and the smile of triumph freezes on your face. It's going to be that kind of week, I'm afraid. Meanwhile, the bigger news last night was that the awful Auntie Nellie has been awarded a council flat, just at the point when her moral blackmail had started to work on Arthur and Pauline. Hoorah. For the audience, this news was like a great big birthday present, tied with bows. Was there a telephone vote, perhaps? If there was, I wish I'd known.

## BBC1

- 5.40 *Spirit of Islam* (r). (Ceefax) (s) (7522543)
- 6.00 *Business Breakfast* (93833)
- 9.00 *BBC Breakfast News* (62581036)
- 9.05 *Kilroy* (s) (9009727)
- 10.00 *News* (Ceefax), regional news and weather (7002038) 10.05 *Good Morning with Anne and Nick* (8864272)
- 12.00 *News* (Ceefax), regional news and weather (1987562) 12.05 *Pebble Mill* (s) (2113014) 12.55 *Regional News and Weather* (75295494)
- 1.00 *One O'Clock News* (Ceefax) and weather (47368)
- 1.30 *Neighbours*. Quiz game (s) (82024659)
- 2.15 *Holiday* (r). (Ceefax) (s) (711098) 2.45 *The Flying Doctors* (r). (Ceefax) (s) (2119140)
- 3.30 *Cartoon* (9440630) 3.45 *Bliss* (s) (9445185) 4.00 *Jackanory*. Tales from the *Norse's Mouth* (r) (4325669) 4.10 *Rugrats* (s) (4016765) 4.25 *The Borrowers* (r). (Ceefax) (s) (2307036)
- 4.55 *Newsround Extra*. Chris Rogers meets the band Eternal in Germany (5506611) 5.05 *Grange Hill*. (Ceefax) (s) (8111255)
- 5.35 *Neighbours* (r). (Ceefax) (s) (372368)
- 6.00 *Six O'Clock News* (Ceefax) and weather (494)
- 6.30 *Regional news magazines* (746)
- 7.00 *Wipeout*. Game show. (Ceefax) (s) (2765)
- 7.30 *Tomorrow's World*. Includes Howard Staibford reporting from Israel on Project Savannah in which waste from molluscs is transforming barren soil into fertile land. (Ceefax) (s) (630)
- 8.00 *The Unforgettable EastEnders: Michelle's Secret*. The first of a season of classic episodes from the ten-year-old soap. (Ceefax) (8185)



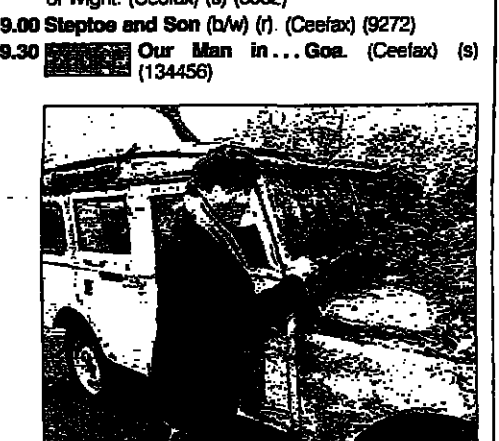
Terry Wogan is in a dilemma (8.30pm)

- 8.30 *Do the Right Thing* (s) (9320)
- 9.00 *Nine O'Clock News* (Ceefax), regional news and weather (1830)
- 9.30 *Dangerfield*. Drama series starring Nigel Le Vaillant as a police surgeon. (Ceefax) (s) (887901)
- 10.00 *Film: Winter People* (1989) starring Keri Russell, Kelly McGillis and Lloyd Bridges. A widower living in the Appalachian mountains becomes romantically involved with a single mother, a relationship that leads to him becoming embroiled in a bitter blood feud. Directed by Ted Kotcheff (812253). Wales: Paper Dragon 10.50 *A Wing and a Prayer*. 11.20 *Winter People*. 1.05am-2.25 *Film: Comedy of Terrors* (1964) starring Vincent Price and Paul Hensley. Horror spoof about an undertaker who revives his ailing business by helping his customers into the grave. Directed by Jacques Tourneur. (Ceefax) (5528857)
- 1.25 *Weather* (4899012)

## BBC2

- 6.20 *Open University: Technology* (7567494) 6.45 *Child Development: Simple Beginnings* (8895340) 7.10 *Modelling and the Modelling Cycle* (3386036) 7.35 *No Lay-By at 35,000 Feet* (2748524)
- 8.00 *Breakfast News*. (Ceefax and Spring) (7401388)
- 8.15 *Germany 1925-32: A Berlin Spring* (824562) 8.20 *Boasting Butler* (r) (7855224) 8.50 *A Week to Remember* (b/w) (2245765)
- 9.00 *Daytime on Two*. Educational programmes. Plus, for children 10.00-10.25 *Playdays* (2041833) 2.00 *Johnson and Friends* (28107814)
- 2.10 *Open View* (41540340)
- 2.15 *Spot on Friday* introduced by Helen Rollason. Bowls: first round action in the Churchill Insurance World indoor championships, from the Guild Hall, Preston. Rugby Union: a preview of tomorrow's five nations' championship matches; Football: a look forward to the FA Cup fifth round ties (s). Includes News and weather at 3.00 (387165)
- 3.50 *News* (Ceefax) and weather (3777630)
- 4.00 *Today's the Day*. Recent history quiz (s) (658)
- 4.30 *Ready, Steady, Cook* (s) (543)
- 5.00 *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. The guests are Warren Beatty and Annette Bening. (Ceefax) (s) (4300185)
- 5.40 *Miss-Takes*. Classic clangers from the BBC archives (356466)
- 6.00 *Captain Scarlet and the Mysterons* (805253)
- 6.25 *Randall and Hopkirk (Deceased)* (r) (262340)
- 7.15 *The O-Zone*. Pop music (s) (473098)
- 7.30 *Operavox: The Magic Flute*. (Ceefax) (272)

- 8.00 *Countrywomen: The High Flyer*. A year in the life of falconer Emma Ford. (Ceefax) (s) (6727)
- 8.30 *Geoff Hamilton's Cottage Gardens*. Visits to cottage gardens in Suffolk, Derbyshire and the Isle of Wight. (Ceefax) (s) (8582)
- 9.00 *Stepstones and Son* (b/w) (r). (Ceefax) (9272)
- 9.30 *Our Man in... Goa*. (Ceefax) (s) (134455)



Tom Conti with his old Land Rover (10.10pm)

- 10.10 *The Car's the Star: The Land Rover*. (Ceefax) (s) (243765)
- 10.30 *Newsnight*. (Ceefax) (243263)
- 11.15 *The Mrs Merton Show*. Comedy starring Caroline Hock. (Ceefax) (s) (637843). Wales: Welsh Lobby 11.45 *The Mrs Merton Show* 12.15am *Duckman* 12.45-1.35 *The Fugitive*
- 11.45 *Duckman*. Adult animation (s) (242562)
- 12.10am *Weather* (1770470)
- 12.15 *The Fugitive* (b/w). Man-on-the-run drama series (r). (Ceefax) (415588). Ends at 1.00

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## CHOICE



Clive Anderson contemplates Goa (BBC2, 9.30pm)

**Our Man in... Goa** BBC2, 9.30pm  
Our man is Clive Anderson and his mission is to travel the world and report on paradises in trouble. Given Anderson's jolly approach the result is not unlike the *Postcards* series of the other Clive. James. All the same, there is a serious point beneath the levity as Anderson travels to the Indian state of Goa. In the 1960s it was the unspoilt mecca of the hippy movement, the cue for a David Attenborough impression as Anderson creeps through undergrowth to see whether any of the beautiful people are left. Goa now is being overrun by five-star hotels and golf courses, much to the distress of local villagers. Anderson takes up their cause, though his interview with the director of tourism is hilariously thwarted by a constantly ringing telephone.

**The Car's the Star** BBC2, 10.10pm  
Quentin Wilson returns with six more motoring classics, of which four are British. With the Land Rover, tonight's star, patriotism goes to the lengths of playing Elgar's *Pomp and Circumstance* march, though thankfully without the words. But the Land Rover is worth celebrating and a 20-minute slot is hardly enough to do it justice. This go-anywhere vehicle was conceived after the Second World War when Rover needed an export model in order to qualify for scarce steel. Intended to last five years, it is still in production. Among those singing its praises are a Welsh farmer, a Navy officer who was one of the first customers, celebrities Tom Conti and Anthea Turner, and Tom Barton from the original design team.

**Do the Right Thing** BBC1, 8.30pm  
The moral dilemma show returns, hosted by Terry Wogan and featuring a celebrity panel but giving you and me at home the final vote. The question tonight is whether a teacher, thirtyish and unattached, and her 18-year-old pupil should have an affair. In real life it could be a painful matter, demanding the solemn attention of an agony aunt. But this is peak-time entertainment and the more laughs the better. Some of them come from the studio audience, ungraciously responding to a dramatisation of the couple's predicament. Others are supplied by the comedian Tony Hawks, who is joined by the chat show host Vanessa Feltz and Ken Livingstone. MP. Not to be outdone, Wogan essays a few quips of his own.

**Operavox** BBC2, 7.30pm  
Mozart's *The Magic Flute* is boiled down to half an hour and presented in drawn animation by Christmas Films of Moscow. The result is spikier and more unsettling than last week's painterly rendering of *Carmen*, though the level of invention is consistently high. Buft's might object that reducing a great opera to a cartoon is to trivialise it, but they must concede the boldness of the images, the striking use of colour and composition and the unexpected juxtapositions. The dialogue belongs more to the 20th century than the 18th, but there is no tampering with the glorious music. Papageno is sung by Simon Keenlyside, Papagena by Rebecca Evans and the Queen of the Night by Jennifer Rhys Davies. Peter Waymark.

## CARLTON LWT

- 6.00 *GMTV* (1536017)
- 9.25 *Chain Letters*. Word game presented by Ted Robbins (s) (4896096) 9.55 *London Today* (Teletext) and weather (2028882)
- 10.00 *The Time... the Place*. Topical discussion series chaired by John Stapleton (4152949)
- 10.35 *This Morning* (9029689) 12.20 *London Today* (Teletext) and weather (1983748)
- 12.30 *ITN Lunchtime News* (Teletext) and weather (4802253)
- 12.55 *Coronation Street* (r). (Teletext) (4810272) 1.25 *Home and Away*. (Teletext) (6147698)
- 1.55 *The Chrystal Rose Show*. Discussion series (s) (2503087) 2.25 *A Country Practice* (s) (8189717) 2.50 *Tales of the High Road*. Highland drama series (9604678)
- 3.20 *ITN News headlines* (7356562) 3.25 *London Today* (Teletext) and weather (7356533)
- 3.30 *Rosie and Jim* (s) (9442098) 3.45 *Warner Brothers Cartoons*. A Bugs Bunny double bill (r) (430253) 4.00 *Zzzap!* (s) (4087253) 4.15 *Thin Toon Adventures* (7181712) 4.40 *Tales from the Cryptkeeper: Gorrilla's Paw* (s) (3837302)
- 5.10 *After 5* (1266104)
- 5.40 *News* (Teletext) and weather (343982)
- 6.00 *Home and Away* (r). (Teletext) (632307)
- 6.25 *London Tonight* presented by Lindsay Charlton and Fiona Foster. (Teletext) (524727)
- 7.00 *Bruce Forsyth's Play Your Cards Right*. Game show for couples. (Teletext) (7833)
- 7.30 *Coronation Street*. (Teletext) (758)
- 8.00 *The Bill: High Score*. Dealin, bemused by the world of computers, persuades a schoolboy to help him solve a case. (Teletext) (3253)
- 8.30 *The Upper Hand*. Role reversal comedy series starring Joe McGann and Diane Weston. (Teletext) (s) (2388)



Jackie Morrison and Ian Embleton (9.00pm)

- 9.00 *Doctor Finlay*. Rhona (Jackie Morrison) thinks she has found romance with a dance teacher (Ian Embleton). (Teletext) (s) (9524)
- 10.00 *News at Ten* (Teletext) and weather (96746)
- 10.30 *Film: Nightmare* (1981) starring Victoria Principal, Paul Sorvino and Jonathan Banks. Thriller about a single mother whose life is shattered when her daughter is kidnapped by a killer. In her time of need she enlists the help of a veteran policeman who has his own methods of dealing with the crisis. Directed by John Pasquin (915981)
- 12.20am *London Tonight* (Teletext) (2181963)
- 12.30 *One to One*. Belinda Carlisle is interviewed by Gary Davies (3212055)
- 1.05 *The James Whale Show*. Entertainment, discussion and interviews (s) (5483708)
- 2.05 *The Chart Show* (s) (8635050)
- 3.00 *Nolay Mothers*. Rock and heavy metal music magazine (s) (424383)
- 3.55 *Cinema, Cinema, Cinema* (8623692)
- 4.30 *The New Music* (82050)
- 5.30 *ITN Morning News* (25302). Ends at 6.00

## CHANNEL 4

- 6.35 *Sandokan* (r) (6947456)
- 7.00 *The Big Breakfast* (53920)
- 9.00 *You Set Your Life* (r) (s) (36433)
- 9.30 *Schools*. *Eurodis* (5296962) 9.45 *Stop, Look, Listen* (5247783) 10.00 *Forces Farm* (7089398) 10.10 *Maths Everywhere* (4723701) 10.25 *Eurodis* (5881368) 10.40 *Off Limits* (3749272) 11.05 *Schools at Work* (9492901) 11.11 *Time for Teachers* (2881475) 11.22 *Stage One* (2861811) 11.40 *How We Used to Live* (s) (3165388)
- 12.00 *Profiles of Nature: Hawks*. (r) (39859)
- 12.30 *Seaside Street* (82920) 1.30 *The Magic Roundabout* followed by *The Wombles*, *Paddington* and *The Changers* (2437140)
- 1.55 *Papageno*. An animated tribute to Mozart's "Bird Catcher", made in 1935 (7183849)
- 2.10 *Film: The Golden Salamander* (1949, b/w) starring Trevor Howard, Anouk Aimée and Herbert Lom. Tunisia-based adventure yarn about an archaeologist who becomes involved with gun-runners. Directed by Ronald Neame (131479)
- 4.00 *The Bevin Boys*. A documentary about the 22,000 Second World War conscripts who were chosen by ballot from 1943 to work the coal mines instead of serving in the Armed Forces (r). (Teletext) (727)
- 4.30 *Countdown*. (Teletext) (s) (611)
- 5.00 *Cutting Edge: A Is for Accident* (r). (Teletext) (4746)
- 6.00 *Blossom* (r). (Teletext) (s) (104)
- 6.30 *Moviewatch*. Moviegoers in Inverness review the latest releases (s) (456)
- 7.00 *Channel 4 News* (Teletext) and weather (476901)
- 7.50 *You Don't Know Me But...* (434368)
- 8.00 *The 3,000 Mile Garden*. Leslie Landr cool off under her solar-heated open air shower while Roger Phillips awaits the Westminster in Bloom awards. (Teletext) (s) (4123)
- 8.30 *Brookside*. (Teletext) (s) (3630)



Ellen DeGeneres provides the laughs (9.00pm)

- 9.00 *Ellen*. Comedy series starring Ellen DeGeneres. (Teletext) (s) (4340)
- 9.30 *Rising Damp*. Classic boarding house comedy starring Leonard Rossiter (r). (Teletext) (13901)
- 10.00 *Roseanne*. (Teletext) (s) (94388)
- 10.30 *Jo Brand Through the Carahole*. The comedienne is joined by Don Henderson and Jim Sweney (r). (Teletext) (s) (724388)
- 11.05 *The Word* (s) (785524)
- 12.05am *Beavis and Butt-head* (s) (3342437)
- 12.40 *Film: Candy Mountain* (1987) starring Kevin S. O'Connor and Harris Yulin. A road movie about a rock star has-been who sets out to find a legendary guitar maker who disappeared from the scene 20 years ago. Directed by Robert Frank and Rudy Wurlitzer (183857)
- 2.20 *Film: The Lone Wolf Keeps a Date* (1940, b/w) starring Warren William and Frances Robinson. Thriller in which the thief-turned-sleuth rescues a woman from the grip of gangsters and helps her secure the release of a kidnapped millionaire. Directed by Sidney Salkow (5346654). Ends at 3.30

## VARIATIONS

- ENGLIA**  
As London except: 9.55am-10.00 *Anglia News* (920888) 12.30pm-12.35 *Anglia News* (920888) 1.05 *The Young Doctors* (8201808) 2.30 *Anglia News* (920888) 2.55-3.00 *Wish You Were Here* (708478) 3.30-3.40 *Anglia News* (735833) 3.45-4.00 *Shortland Street* (128014) 4.05-4.10 *Anglia News* (920888) 4.15-4.20 *Anglia News* (920888) 4.25-4.30 *Anglia News* (920888) 4.35-4.40 *Anglia News* (920888) 4.45-4.50 *Anglia News* (920888) 4.55-5.00 *Anglia News* (920888) 5.05-5.10 *Anglia News* (920888) 5.15-5.20 *Anglia News* (920888) 5.25-5.30 *Anglia News* (920888) 5.35-5.40 *Anglia News* (920888) 5.45-5.50 *Anglia News* (920888) 5.55-6.00 *Anglia News* (920888) 6.05-6.10 *Anglia News* (920888) 6.15-6.20 *Anglia News* (920888) 6.25-6.30 *Anglia News* (920888) 6.35-6.40 *Anglia News* (920888) 6.45-6.50 *Anglia News* (920888) 6.55-7.00 *Anglia News* (920888) 7.05-7.10 *Anglia News* (920888) 7.15-7.20 *Anglia News* (920888) 7.25-7.30 *Anglia News* (920888) 7.35-7.40 *Anglia News* (920888) 7.45-7.50 *Anglia News* (920888) 7.55-8.00 *Anglia News* (920888) 8.05-8.10 *Anglia News* (920888) 8.15-8.20 *Anglia News* (920888) 8.25-8.30 *Anglia News* (920888) 8.35-8.40 *Anglia News* (920888) 8.45-8.50 *Anglia News* (920888) 8.55-9.00 *Anglia News* (920888) 9.05-9.10 *Anglia News* (920888) 9.15-9.20 *Anglia News* (920888) 9.25-9.30 *Anglia News* (920888) 9.35-9.40 *Anglia News* (920888) 9.45-9.50 *Anglia News* (920888) 9.55-10.00 *Anglia News* (920888) 10.05-10.10 *Anglia News* (920888) 10.15-10.20 *Anglia News* (920888) 10.25-10.30 *Anglia News* (920888) 10.35-10.40 *Anglia News* (920888) 10.45-10.50 *Anglia News* (920888) 10.55-11.00 *Anglia News* (920888) 11.05-11.10 *Anglia News* (920888) 11.15-11.20 *Anglia News* (920888) 11.25-11.30 *Anglia News* (920888) 11.35-11.40 *Anglia News* (920888) 11.45-11.50 *Anglia News* (920888) 11.55-12.00 *Anglia News* (920888) 12.05-12.10 *Anglia News* (920888) 12.15-12.20 *Anglia News* (920888) 12.25-12.30 *Anglia News* (920888) 12.35-12.40 *Anglia News* (920888) 12.45-12.50 *Anglia News* (920888) 12.55-1.00 *Anglia News* (920888) 1.05-1.10 *Anglia News* (920888) 1.15-1.20 *Anglia News* (920888) 1.25-1.30 *Anglia News* (920888) 1.35-1.40 *Anglia News* (920888) 1.45-1.50 *Anglia News* (920888) 1.55-2.00 *Anglia News* (920888) 2.05-2.10 *Anglia News* (920888) 2.15-2.20 *Anglia News* (920888) 2.25-2.30 *Anglia News* (920888) 2.35-2.40 *Anglia News* (920888) 2.45-2.50 *Anglia News* (920888) 2.55-3.00 *Anglia News* (920888) 3.05-3.10 *Anglia News* (920888) 3.15-3.20 *Anglia News* (920888) 3.25-3.30 *Anglia News* (920888) 3.35-3.40 *Anglia News* (920888) 3.45-3.50 *Anglia News* (920888) 3.55-4.00 *Anglia News* (920888) 4.05-4.10 *Anglia News* (920888) 4.15-4.20 *Anglia News* (920888) 4.25-4.30 *Anglia News* (920888) 4.35-4.40 *Anglia News* (920888) 4.45-4.50 *Anglia News* (920888) 4.55-5.00 *Anglia News* (920888) 5.05-5.10 *Anglia News* (920888) 5.15-5.20 *Anglia News* (920888) 5.25-5.30 *Anglia News* (920888) 5.35-5.40 *Anglia News* (920888) 5.45-5.50 *Anglia News* (920888) 5.55-6.00 *Anglia News* (920888) 6.05-6.10 *Anglia News* (920888) 6.15-6.20 *Anglia News* (920888) 6.25-6.30 *Anglia News* (920888) 6.35-6.40 *Anglia News* (920888) 6.45-6.50 *Anglia News* (920888) 6.55-7.00 *Anglia News* (920888) 7.05-7.10 *Anglia News* (920888) 7.15-7.20 *Anglia News* (920888) 7.25-7.30 *Anglia News* (920888) 7.35-7.40 *Anglia News* (920888) 7.45-7.50 *Anglia News* (920888) 7.55-8.00 *Anglia News* (920888) 8.05-8.10 *Anglia News* (920888) 8.15-8.20 *Anglia News* (920888) 8.25-8.30 *Anglia News* (920888) 8.35-8.40 *Anglia News* (920888) 8.45-8.50 *Anglia News* (920888) 8.55-9.00 *Anglia News* (920888) 9.05-9.10 *Anglia News* (920888) 9.15-9.20 *Anglia News* (920888) 9.25-9.30 *Anglia News* (920888) 9.35-9.40 *Anglia News* (920888) 9.45-9.50 *Anglia News* (920888) 9.55-10.00 *Anglia News* (920888) 10.05-10.10 *Anglia News* (920888) 10.15-10.20 *Anglia News* (920888) 10.25-10.30 *Anglia News* (920888) 10.35-10.40 *Anglia News* (920888) 10.45-10.50



## SPORT

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 17 1995

CLEMENT FREUD 42

ALL ABOARD IN  
THE TAMWORTH  
PLEASURE DOME

FA pledges inquiry into Dublin riot as threat to 1996 European championship recedes

## England's supporters give final backing

By ROB HUGHES  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

WITH what may be regrettable haste, the football hierarchy and the government seemed to decide yesterday that the European championship can go ahead on English soil next year. No surrender to the hooligan mob.

The impulse, led from early morning by the Prime Minister and reiterated by mid-afternoon from the offices of Uefa and Fifa, the European and world governing bodies of football, was to accentuate the positive, to declare faith in the ability of English police to contain any menace.

However, as workers at the Lansdowne Road stadium in Dublin began clearing up the debris after the most chilling example of organised English hooliganism, it was evident that, not only had seats and their wooden surrounds been torn, but the iron mouldings of

'The rest of Europe must cross its fingers and trust the British police'

David Miller examines the solutions, page 40

the seats had been ripped out and thrown down onto the pitch, thrown at the heads of players, guards, stewards and other spectators.

And, while there is evidence that the English grounds selected for the 1996 tournament are subjected to the most sophisticated policing, who gives guarantees that street fighting will not erupt as it did at the European championship in Sweden in 1992?

Now, as then, there are right-wing groups of thugs who communicate from one European country to another, whose purpose is anarchy, who agree to rendezvous when nationalist fervour is at a high. Should not the Prime Minister, the president of Fifa and the general secretary of Uefa have waited for the promised reports on the investigation into an affray that none of them had witnessed first-hand? Would that not have been responsible leadership?

There are, of course, vested interests in declaring that the



Davies, flanked by Kirtan and Kelly, addresses the future of English football at a Football Association news conference in London yesterday, while Havelange, the Fifa president, does likewise in Geneva

show, as well as the promised purge on the Dublin rioters, goes on. John Major has to believe that his country's police forces can mount a safe international sporting event—though this, in football, is the first since the 1966 World Cup.

And the vested interests of all the others, all the football men, is simple to understand: their commercial enterprise has already invested millions on the tournament; their love of the game bolsters the theme of no surrender.

Presenting the case for the Football Association yesterday, David Davies, its director of public affairs, referred to "the madness" of what happened in Dublin. He pledged

that the inquiry, jointly begun between the FA and the Football Association of Ireland, would complete its urgent work by next week, but insisted: "It is our view that Euro 96 should and must go ahead... if it doesn't, who would have won then? A tiny minority of mindless thugs or a million genuine soccer fans who want the tournament to go ahead?"

Graham Kelly, the FA chief executive, in Dublin the previous night, had with considerable decency and genuineness apologised to the Irish supporters, and said his heart went out to the injured, the frightened and the inconvenienced. His composure restored, he said the FA was

"very heartened" by support received from football leaders abroad and the tournament's commercial partners.

"They are confident in our ability to stage a trouble-free Euro 96," Kelly reiterated. "Euro 96 will be a festival, not only of football, but also of the English way of life. These horrible, nasty people with misconceived notions of nationalism for some reason, attach themselves to football. I feel sorry for the players — their lives [careers] are short, and they have to work against this backdrop."

Kelly, in the emotive atmosphere of Dublin, had fallen short of guaranteeing the safety of everyone who came, or

who sent their children, to the festival in 16 months' time. But Glen Kirtan, director of the European championship, spoke of a ticketing system with a database which would be matched, before each ticket was sold, with a similar database of hooligans drawn up by the FA and the police.

"Every ticket," Kirtan said, "is a high-security ticket. Because of our closed-circuit television systems, we will be able to look at any person in any seat in any area and be able to say we know who that person is — or who it should be. It will not be possible to congregate large groups as happened in Dublin because there will be a maximum of

four tickets sold to any one person."

So the big brother organisation is matched against the cunning of the right-wing infiltrators whose past escapades have been arranged with almost military planning. And so, from afar, came the nods of approval from those in high places.

João Havelange, the Fifa president, haughtily declared: "Fifa only deals with the field. England does not deserve, because of a localised problem, to have a sporting right withdrawn. That's the opinion of the president of Fifa and I'm sure it's the opinion of Fifa."

Meanwhile, the final decision on Euro 96 rests with



Stadium staff clear up the debris at Lansdowne Road

Reaction, pages 1, 2  
Leader, page 19  
Letters, page 19

## Carling gives thoughts of early retirement the boot

EVEN if he believes that England is not, in the strict sense of the word, a rejuvenated team this season, Will Carling is certainly a rejuvenated player. As the English party left Bath for Cardiff yesterday, to prepare for the five nations' rugby union championship match with Wales tomorrow, Carling left a substantial hint behind that retirement is now the last thing on his mind.

"This is a different team, one that wants to win a grand slam, to win in Cardiff because it hasn't done so before, and there are some exciting players," the England captain said. "It's a World

Cup year. I know, but I don't think it will be my last big shout. If you look at the team in general, there are a few clues there about why I feel things have been easier for me this season."

Indeed, all the senior players, those with 50-plus caps, like Carling, are fighting shy of writing *finis* to their careers because they believe that they are part of a fresh development in English rugby. At a time when the nation's other leading team sports are going through difficult times, rugby union can represent a good news story.

"You can't pass comment on what happens in other

David Hands, rugby correspondent, finds the England captain revelling in the fine displays produced by his team this season

sports," Carling said, with reference to the events at another historic rugby venue, Lansdowne Road, on Wednesday night. "I like it when England win at anything, but we just take pride in what we manage to do."

Some crossed fingers remain that Ben Clarke, the Bath flanker, will play, despite twinges from his ankle. Richie Collins, his opposite number, missed Wales's

training, but only because his police duties required him as a witness in court.

"We are aware that Wales play exceptionally well in Cardiff, and even better against England in Cardiff, but we have no mental hang-ups about it," Carling said. "The Welsh have always had good players, but they raise themselves above normal against the English."

After completing their preparations, Scotland flew to Paris where they play France, leaving behind Paul Burnell, the injured prop, whose place among the replacements goes to John Manson, of Dundee HSFP. In a week when infringements of the amateur regulations have been levelled at players from both countries, Rob Wainwright, the Scotland blind-side flanker, has joined the debate by asking what is meant by amateur in the 1990s.

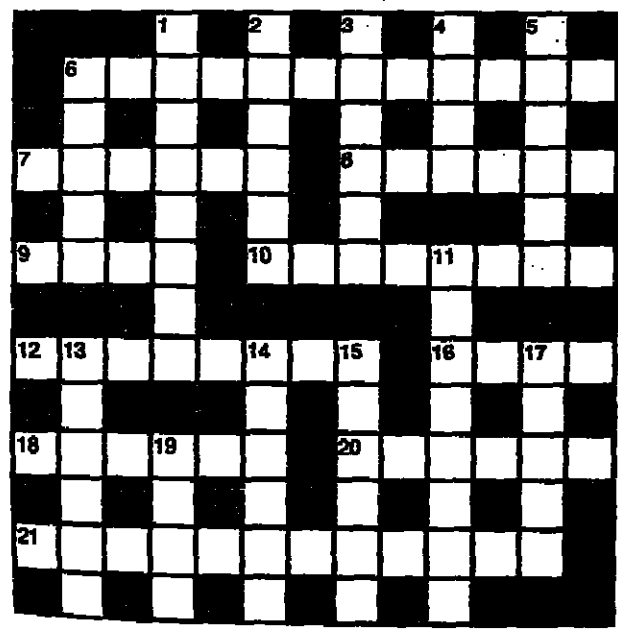
"I get a sum from the Scotland team sponsors, Famous Grouse," Wainwright says in the March issue of *Rugby World*, which is published today. "Now tell me the

difference between Famous Grouse pumping money into the Scottish Rugby Union, who then pay us, which happens at the moment, and just Famous Grouse cutting out the middle man and paying us direct."

"As far as I'm concerned, I can't call myself an amateur player when I get paid."

Oliver Brouzet, the French lock, has recovered from an ankle injury and will play against Scotland. Olivier Merle, who was replaced by Brouzet for the game against England, remains on standby.

Mind games, page 41



CROSSWORD BOOKS: The Times Concise Crosswords (Books 1 & 2 £5.99 each), Books 3, 4, 5 & NEW Book 7 £4.50 each, The Times Jumbo Crosswords (Books 1 & 2 £5.99 each), Concise Book £5.99, The Times Crosswords (Books 1 to 13 £4.99 each), Books 14 to 18 & NEW Book 19 £4.50 each, NEW Book 15 £4.50 each, The Sunday Times Concise Books 1 to 13 £4.50 each. Except the items in brackets, software available for all titles for IBM PCs and Acorn Archimedes computers. Price £14.95. Times Vols 1 to 6 and The Times Computer Crosswords Vols 1 to 6, The Sunday Times puzzle (UK), Cheques with order payable to Akom Ltd, 51 Manor Lane, London SE15 5QW. Tel 0181-852 4575 (24 hrs). No credit cards.

TIMES TWO  
CROSSWORD

No 398

## ACROSS

- 6 Throwing/gambling game with coins (5-3-4)
- 7 Package: piece of land (6)
- 8 Bribe (someone to do wrong) (6)
- 9 Little wooded hollow (4)
- 10 Obvious: passenger list (8)
- 12 Old, weak, worn out (8)
- 16 Strong cord (4)
- 18 Rakish; fond of games (6)
- 20 Of uncertain result (6)
- 21 Unbalanced state, insufficient weight at base (3-9)

## DOWN

- 1 One demanding accuracy (8)
- 2 Jewish greeting (6)
- 3 Concord (6)
- 4 Painfully knock (toe) (4)
- 5 Egyptian god, judge of the dead (6)
- 6 Calmness; absence of conflict (5)
- 11 Abandoned (8)
- 13 Make use of (6)
- 14 On which wages are received (3-3)
- 15 Make snug in bed; eat well (4,2)
- 17 Scrums; fills suitcase (5)
- 19 German industrial, mining region (4)

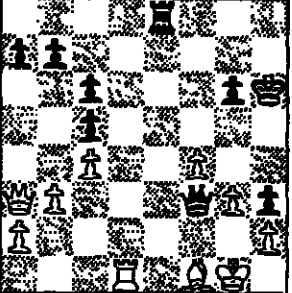
## SOLUTION TO NO 397

ACROSS: 1 Demijohn 5 Glow 8 Scissors 9 Faze 11 Bleat 12 In a word 13 Yippee 15 Outfit 18 Piccolo 19 Rabid 21 Ride 22 Devotion 23 Lure 24 Brussels  
DOWN: 1 Disobey 2 Maize 3 Just the job 4 Horrid 6 Lead off 7 Wield 10 Salubrious 14 Picador 16 Tidings 17 Pours 18 Peril 20 Brine

## WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Foukakis - Moor, European U-18, 1994. Black has sacrificed a piece to lure the white queen away from the defence of the king. What is now the best way for Black to continue?

Solution, page 41  
Raymond Keene, page 8

## WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

ORTEGUINA  
a. Type of miniature tangerine  
b. A lascivious dance  
c. A decorative pass

RITUALIA  
a. Religious bric-a-brac  
b. The lower entrails  
c. A dwarf azalea

PASTIE  
a. A nipple-cover  
b. A collage  
c. A Cornishman

RETICELLA  
a. The back of the retina  
b. Manoeuvre at bull-fighting  
c. Venetian lace

Answers on page 41

SPRAYSEAL

SOLVES

ROOF PROBLEMS

SLIPPING TILES/SLATES?

NAIL FATIGUE?

BLOW UNDERGAPS?

NO UNDERFELT?

DAMAGED UNDERFELT?

LEAKS & CONDENSATION?

BURST PIPES IN LOFT?

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